THE BALLOON, OR *Aeroſtatic Spy*,

A NOVEL,

Containing a Series of

ADVENTURES

OF AN

AERIAL TRAVELLER;

Including a Variety of

HISTORIES and CHARACTERS

IN REAL LIFE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

THE

AEROSTATIC SPY.

CHAP. I.

Introductory Obſervations. Story of a Gallic Adventurer. Eſcape of an Offender. Hiſtory of a Smuggler. Various Obſervations.

"WE are now, ſaid Amiel, arrived in a Country, once, for Arts and Arms, the admiration and the envy of the world, poſſeſſing a Conſtitution, which, though not in every reſpect perfect, was generally conceived to be one of the beſt that human wiſdom could deviſe; yet the people have ever murmured; at the ſame

time that, by a ſtrange kind of Logic, there were always thoſe who argued, that this Murmuring was the only method whereby they could hope to preſerve to themſelves theſe invaluable bleſſings. As all Empires have their riſe and decline, ſo it appears that Britain is rather paſt her meridian. America already loſt to her; other branches are ready to drop from that vaſt tree, beneath whoſe ſhade the nations reſted; a number of concurrent natural as well as political cauſes tend to work theſe effects: But all this will not happen in the courſe of this generation. Britain, the Land of your Anceſtors, is ſtill reſpectable: Britain offers you an aſylum. Here you will meet your Lucia, and ſpend many years in peace and tranquility."

Thus converſing, we entered an inn at Dover; and I had an opportunity of remarking

marking the difference between thoſe houſes of accommodation in England and in other countries. In ſome, Shew prevails, and ſlovenly Negligence is obſervable in others; while Neatneſs and Convenience ſeem to characteriſe thoſe of England.

We had but juſt ſeated ourſelves when a young foreigner, gaily habited, entered the oppoſite room, of whom Amiel bade me take notice, and gave the following outlines of his hiſtory.

"The name of that Frenchman, ſaid he, is Le V..... In his early youth he was taken from his parents by one of the Farmers General reſiding in Paris, with whom he lived for many years, until his Patron found means to place him, much to his advantage, in an office under Government. Here for ſome time he diſcharged his truſt with punctuality and fidelity: But, at length,

length, connecting himself with wild companions, he grew extravagant, ran greatly in debt; and in proportion as his embarraſſments increaſed, became negligent in his buſineſs.

" Complaints were made to the perſon who recommended him, accompanied with a threat of diſmiſſing the party. The Farmer General ſent for Le V....., expoſtulated with him on the impropriety of his conduct, deſiring, at the ſame time, to know the ſtate of his affairs. The youth, who had now become artful, communicated juſt ſo much as he judged would be neceſſary to procure him needful aſſiſtance. His Patron liſtened to him, forgave the folly of his extravagance, paid his debts, and, by a powerful interceſſion at Court, prevented his being diſcharged from his appointment.

" But

"But all this was not ſufficient to work upon Le V..... He relapſed into diſſipation, with this only difference, that he took more pains to conceal thoſe faults which he really had no deſign to amend. The conſequence was, that he became, in a ſhort time, involved in debt as much as ever. But he now adopted the method of ſupporting his expences, by uſing freely the money of Government intruſted to his charge. As this was a practice which he knew could not laſt, he had provided all things for a retreat, againſt a period which he had fixed in his own mind, as the ultimate of his ſtay in the Gallic Dominions.

"In the mean time, he had inſinuated himſelf into the good graces of his Patron's niece. He addreſſed her on honourable terms; but finding her eaſy of compliance, he debauched her, on a promiſe of marriage,

riage, which he delayed fulfilling upon various pretences. His miſtreſs proved pregnant; but a timely miſcarriage prevented the diſcloſure of a ſecret, which, being known, might have been attended with diſagreeable conſequences.

" He ventured to tell this female that he ſhould be forced to quit France, though he did not think proper to aſſign the true reaſon. He proceeded to acquaint her, that a certain ſum of money would be neceſſary for this purpoſe. This ſhe procured for him, on condition of his marrying her, and making her the companion of his flight. It was not a time for Le V..... to refuſe his aſſent in *words* to any condition. He ſcrupled not to fulfil the firſt literally; but when his new wife had procured him the money he wanted, he found means to deceive her as to the time when he intended

to

to quit Paris, and ſet out three days before the period he had pretended to fix on. He had better ſucceſs than he deſerved; for he quitted both the capital and the country without being ſuſpected. Favouring winds wafted him acroſs the Channel; and you now behold him here with 5000l. of money and property, not a ſhilling of which is his own, but all got by defrauding the French Government, and the eaſy niece of his Patron, the Farmer General.

" This man, by his appearance and addreſs, will introduce himſelf into the beſt company in England; and, being unknown, as he is polite, and apparently generous, will be, at firſt, almoſt every where careſſed and well ſpoken of. He will contract an intimacy with a noble Earl, and will be near marrying his ſiſter; but her own relations will put a ſtop to the treaty

of marriage, by ſetting on foot an enquiry, which, not turning out to the Frenchman's advantage, will put a ſtop to his farther connexion with that family.

" After various adventures, it will be the fate of Le V . . . . to marry a young Engliſh-woman, poſſeſſed of ſome fortune: but this being ſettled on her, will occaſion various diſputes. In the midſt of theſe, his evil genius will ſend over his former wife from France.---The conſequence of her claim will then be a total ſeparation from his ſecond ſpouſe, and a general diſlike of him among the Engliſh Nation. He will therefore go over to the ſiſter kingdom, where he will, for a long time, be buſy in fomenting differences with Great Britain. There again he will make an attempt towards a third marriage; but detection, ſcorn, and threatened vengeance will be the iſſue.

" Conſe-

" Conſequent diſappointment in ſome concerns of importance, that he intended to engage in, will occaſion this adventurer to quit Ireland, and embark for America. Here ends the laſt ſtage of his life. The ſhip being caſt away, he will be among the number of thoſe ſwallowed up by the mercileſs waves, thus finiſhing his career at the age of thirty; but his fate being concealed from him, as it is from all mortals, you now ſee him blythe and jocund, in all that gaiety of heart, for which his countrymen are ſo remarkable."

Amiel pointed out to me ſeveral other remarkable characters, many of whom were not a jot more worthy than this Frenchman, ſome coming over hither from the Gallic Coaſt for refuge, whilſt others were watching a favourable opportunity to paſs over from hence to that kingdom, in order

to

to elude the offended juſtice of his country.

Among theſe latter, he diſtinguiſhed one who paſſed haſtily to the port, a perſon of ingenuity in his occupation, to whom an opportunity was unwarily thrown out by a great body of men, of defrauding them to a conſiderable amount.

"Theſe people, ſaid Amiel, in their aggregate capacity, had recently the means offered them to prevent any fraud of this kind from being practiſed upon them. Previous to the offence of this man, there was a culprit who made an offer of this kind, on condition of receiving the gift of his forfeited life, in return for the propoſed diſcovery. The offer was rejected, though the *Prevention* of ſuch crimes is the excuſe alledged for rendering the puniſhment capital. The conſequence will be repeated frauds

frauds and forgeries, to the prejudice of individuals, and even to the diminution of public credit."

The next day we left Dover, taking the road towards the metropolis. In the courſe of our aerial journey we paſſed over a city, which my companion obſerved was Canterbury.

"Here, ſaid he, (as you may have heard) the firſt Saxon kingdom was in Britain.--- And here Chriſtianity was firſt preached among the Saxons. From the latter circumſtance this See derives a pre-eminence over all the reſt in the iſland. This Archbiſhopric is the aim of moſt of the dignified Clergy, of the eſtabliſhed Church. They look upon it as their *Ultimatum*, and ſpare not to exert the utmoſt efforts of *Intereſt*, which, oftener than *Merit*, leads them to the ſummit of their wiſhes."

I had

I had reaſons for preſcribing myſelf a ſilence in regard to many points in my diſcourſe with Amiel, who had given me to underſtand, that I muſt not expect, by his aſſociating with me, to aſpire to a knowledge above the degree of mortals.---With regard to what he ſaid on the ſubject of the Clergy, I naturally made the following reflection:

When we conſider that Eccleſiaſtics are men formed like others, with all the paſſions of human nature, there is no cauſe to wonder that they ſhould follow the lure of ambition or avarice. As to Hierarchies, however neceſſary they may be in certain eſtabliſhments, yet they ſeem to want ſome regulations, as do many other matters in the Church that are rendered faulty by that union of civil and eccleſiaſtical government, which, however neceſſary it may be deemed

in

in itſelf, has introduced ſuch errors, that it might be accounted the higheſt Strain of Policy to amend.

Leaving Canterbury, on the Antiquities of which Amiel made ſeveral obſervations, I perceived a number of horſemen armed and with a conſiderable quantity of baggage. Theſe (ſaid my companion) are Smugglers, who thus parade it along the public roads, and ſometimes through populous towns, without fear of detection. They are generally the moſt infamous of men. You will eaſily conceive that they could not carry on their traffic without being countenanced by others who rank as good citizens. This is, indeed the caſe. Many tradeſmen in a capital way of buſineſs aſſiſt, and ſhare in their gains. They are regardleſs of oaths like many in the Exciſe, without having the ſhadow of that neceſſity which the latter plead

plead in their excuſe.---I have ſaid the Smugglers are generally the moſt infamous of men; but the maxim is not without exception. I can mention one of the company juſt paſt by, whoſe misfortunes will probably excite your pity. He brought up the rear of the horſemen, and is ſtill within view from this our ſtation.

"His name is S.... His parents were in affluent circumſtances. He was their only hope, beloved by his father, and his fond mother's darling. She died while he was very young, and the widower married again. The woman of his choice ſoon after brought an orphan relation of her own into the family, whom her huſband undertook to provide for. The children were bred up together; but ſoon ſhewed that they were of very different diſpoſitions. Young S..... was open and rather impetuous,

petuous, his ſtepmother's relation was artful and inſinuating. It was eaſy to ſuppoſe that perſons of ſuch different characters could not agree. They had frequent quarrels: in the event of theſe, M . . . . . exerciſed ſuch art, and played the hypocrite ſo completely, that, in ſpite of parental affection, the old gentleman generally gave deciſions in his favour.

" The youths were both put under one tutor. This man, won over by the inſinuating ways, and ſtill more by the promiſes of Mrs. S . . . . . 's kinſman, was continually praiſing him and complaining of his other Pupil. All theſe complaints being aggravated by the ſtepmother, wrought ſo much by degrees upon her huſband as to wean his affections from his ſon, who had, indeed, ſomething of wildneſs in his diſpoſition, but whoſe heart was benevolent, as

his

his mind was ſuſceptible of proper notions of Virtue and Honour.

" But the ſmalleſt errors may be exaggerated, as the greateſt faults may be covered or palliated; and it is not in frail mortals always to penetrate the veil of hypocriſy. That the beſt may be deceived, human experience has continually evinced. Old Mr. S ..... had made a ſacrifice of his affections in his latter years to a young wife, and ſhe well knew how to improve upon the circumſtance.

" The faults found with her huſband's ſon were ſo numerous, that, at length, ſhe prevailed ſo far as to have him forbidden to viſit his father at the uſual times.--Abſence has a great ſhare in weakening affection. Indeed the preſence of the youth, his free manner, and his open countenance, would have operated ſo powerfully in his favour, as to defeat

defeat the machinations of his enemies.--- But this privilege was denied him, and his allowance from time to time being abridged, he was neceſſitated to involve himſelf in difficulties, a circumſtance which was urged with no ſmall force againſt him.

Young S..... was intended for the law. Unhappily he took a diſguſt againſt that profeſſion; and this diſlike was conſtrued into ſelf-will and reſolute diſobedience. His allowance, before curtailed, was threatened to be totally withheld, and he now began to ſee too plainly that he had no longer a father in the tender ſenſe of the word, while he was convinced that he had a mother-in-law and an enemy.

"He ſent ſeveral letters to his parent; but to theſe he received no anſwers. Vexed and confounded, he concluded himſelf abandoned; and in this humour he had recourſe

courſe to a former friend of his mother's, who firſt adviſed him to go to his father's houſe, and there in perſon endeavour to reconcile all differences. He did ſo; but old Mr. S.... unluckily being abſent on ſome buſineſs in the neighbouring country, he was refuſed admittance. Returning to his friend, he was furniſhed with ſome current caſh, and, unknown to the perſon who accommodated him, ſet off immediately for London. There he hoped to get ſome employment, which might render him independant, for the preſent, of a parent, whoſe prejudices he found were ſtrong againſt him, which time alone, he conceived, would eradicate.

"In this hope, he took a journey to the metropolis, where he propoſed to accept of a clerkſhip, or any temporary means of ſubſiſtance which might offer; and was not long

long before he got an eſtabliſhment in a capital merchant's houſe, though it was not ſuch as at one time he thought he might have commanded. Here he went on ſo well, that he gained much reſpect for his induſtry as well as his integrity, having put a check upon his wildneſs in time, with a view to ſilence the tongue of reproach. His employer being made acquainted with his real ſituation, in reſpect to his relations, took upon him to write a letter to his father, which came ſafe to hand. In conſequence, the old gentleman gave it in charge to an acquaintance of his, who was coming up to town, to make enquiries concerning his ſon. But it happened that this very perſon was intimate with M....., to whom he communicated this circumſtance. Converſing on the ſubject, he was eaſily led to adopt the intereſt of this young man,

and

and matters turned out accordingly. He came to London, and called on young S . . . . in a friendly manner, who, on his part, entertained him as a friend, not ſuſpecting any treachery. He went to the extent of his abilities to make his viſitor welcome, who, in recompence for his generous treatment, at his return, reported him to be an extravagant and diſſipated young man; thus confirming thoſe prejudices which had been entertained againſt him. Soon after this event, old Mr. S . . . . died, leaving the greater part of his fortune to his wife and her kinſman, and bequeathing only a ſmall ſum, in truſt to a banker in London, for his ſon's uſe. Thus his parent died, eſtranged from him by the arts of a deſigning ſtepmother and her unworthy relation. Young S . . . .'s employer comforted him under this double affliction; he

ſoon after took him into partnerſhip, and at his deceaſe, left him his whole buſineſs, with a plentiful ſtock in trade. But this youth was doomed to farther misfortunes. He married a woman for love, againſt the conſent of her father and brother, and in conſequence received nothing with her. This was not the leaſt matter of concern; her brother, who bore him an inveterate hatred, becauſe he was diſappointed of matching his ſiſter with one of his own chuſing, ſet up againſt him. The banker, who had the money in truſt above mentioned, went off ſome thouſands in debt. A rich veſſel was loſt at ſea, uninſured, a fourth part of the freight of which was his property. To add to theſe embarraſſments, the American War breaking out, this circumſtance, by degrees, proved the ruin of his buſineſs, on account of the debts loſt,

and

and the ſtoppage of exportation to that quarter of the world on which there had formerly been great dependance in that line. The conſequence of ſuch a ſeries of miſfortunes, was a bankruptcy. Some overtures indeed were made reſpecting his reeſtabliſhment in buſineſs, as all his affairs were clear, and his dealings had been proved honourable. But this Child of Misfortune was grown diſguſted with his buſineſs, from the ill ſucceſs he had met with; reaſoning, like many weak mortals, that a ſimilar fate would moſt probably again attend him in ſuch a ſituation. About this time, his wife dying, he embraced an offer to go the Weſt Indies, to manage the concerns of a gentleman of property in one of the Leeward Iſlands. The ſhip was loſt on the paſſage; but he, together with many others of the crew, were taken up by a Portugueſe veſſel,

veſſel, which carried them ſafe to Liſbon. His employer was among thoſe who periſhed in the deep. From Liſbon, therefore, he was glad to take a paſſage in an Engliſh ſhip bound to his native country. But in their way they were encountered by an American privateer, after being ſeparated from their convoy in a gale of wind. The Engliſh were overpowered, taken, and carried into Charleſtown, where S....., amongſt others, ſuffered many hardſhips. When that place was taken by General Clinton, he got a paſſage to New York, where he married again to advantage, and ſettled; but at the peace was among the number who were cruelly deſerted, and was forced to quit his habitation, leaving his property, which was ſeized, and a ſick wife, behind him, who ſoon after expired."

This unfortunate man came to England once more to ſeek protection; but he was among thoſe who met with a cold reception here. His ſtepmother's kinſman, who ſtill reſided in the capital, no ſooner heard of his arrival, than, though deſtitute, he reſolved to perſecute him. He procured a Clerkſhip; but this malevolent Being, by falſe inſinuations, occaſioned him to be turned out of it; and when he was reduced to neceſſity, and a mean appearance, cauſed him to be preſſed for a ſeaman. Having eſcaped from the preſs-gang, S..... wandered for ſome time, half ſtarved, up and down the country, until it was his lot in Kent to be encountered by a gang of Smugglers, who at firſt ſuſpected him as a ſpy in diſguiſe. But theſe being undeceived, and finding that he was one who had been in buſineſs, and had met with many misfortunes,

tunes, admitted him among their company. This man's former ill ſucceſs in life, and the little advantage he got from the protecting laws of his country, eaſily reconciled him to ſubſiſt by a continual breach of them; and he has, ever ſince that period, aſſociated with theſe Smugglers, whoſe affairs are often much benefited by his ſkill, courage, and activity."

I could not but compaſſionate the caſe of the unfortunate S....., at the ſame time that I retained the ſame opinion which I had always of Smugglers in general, whoſe practices are certainly not more injurious to the revenue, than they are, in many reſpects, detrimental to the community.

At the ſame time it naturally occurred to me, that nothing could more effectually impede their practices, than lowering the enormous duties laid on many commodi-

ties,

ties, ſo as not to leave it worth their while to run the uſual riſk upon theſe occaſions; and to treat with the moſt unremitting ſeverity thoſe who dared, by force of arms, to reſiſt the juſtice of their country.

This mode of treatment will appear the more reaſonable, when it is conſidered that theſe men, who act thus unlawfully, are, by the very nature of their practices, calculated, in other ways, to be ſerviceable to the community, and even to aſſiſt the nation in times of exigency and peril.--- There are States where even crimes, which cannot be prevented, are, in ſome meaſure, rendered conducive to public utility.------ It remains for time to determine whether this will ever be among the excellencies of the policy of Great Britain.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

They arrive at Maidſtone. The Author introduced to ſome ſtrolling Players there. Character of a Manager, and Hiſtory of one of his Company. Portrait of Eaſt India officers.

PRoceeding on our aerial journey we came to Maidſtone, in the neighbourhood of which Amiel determined to alight, telling me that he muſt leave me for ſome hours to myſelf. "But, ſaid he, if I am at all acquainted with your diſpoſition, I am aſſured I ſhall not leave you without entertainment. If you will enter yonder inn, near the market-houſe, (which he pointed out to me) and there take ſuch refreſhment as you ſtand in need of, you may, if you pleaſe, divert yourſelf in the company of a deſcription

deſcription of men, with whom, in America, I know you were not acquainted."

Aſſenting, as it was requiſite I ſhould, to whatever my aerial companion propoſed, I deſcended from the Balloon, at a convenient place, and made the beſt of my way to the houſe which had been pointed out to me, where I ordered a dinner, and eaſily perceived, that though I appeared to travel on foot, I might expect good treatment for my coin. Whilſt I was taking my repaſt, I heard ſome people very vociferous in an adjoining apartment, and ſoon obſerved that their recital was in the poetic ſtrain. When the landlord afterwards came into the room, I aſked him what agreeable company he had which had juſt before been unexpectedly entertaining me. He anſwered they were gentlemen of the dramatic line. On this, I begged he would preſent my compliments

compliments to them, and tell them, if they had no objection, I ſhould be glad to ſpend an hour in their company. After pauſing a moment, as if to conſider of the propriety of my propoſal, "Sir, ſaid he, the gentlemen are ſelect, they are generally to themſelves,--but, no doubt, when I tell them a *Gentleman* wiſhes to join them, they will be agreeable."---I added, he would oblige me, and I hoped the gentlemen would not be diſſatisfied with my company, as I did not mean to interfere in any private buſineſs, but merely to drink a bottle or two with them to our better acquaintance.

My Hoſt went out, and ſoon returned with an invitation in the name of the company, to whom he accordingly introduced me; and I was politely received by the aſſembly, whoſe diſcourſe ſoon gave me to underſtand that they were what are commonly

monly denominated ſtrolling players, belonging to a company travelling that part of the country.

I eaſily perceived that, as well as Mock-Heroiſm, theſe people could deal in Mock-Politeneſs, which they appeared willing to diſplay before any ſtrangers. But yet there was a ſort of vulgarity in moſt of them, lurking beneath this ſemblance, which was immediately perceptible to the diſcerning eye. When I entered into diſcourſe with them, I found their converſation, in general, ſuch as ſavoured of little knowledge, joined to much ſelf-opinion, and was continually ſufficiently interlarded with ſhreds and patches from plays, to which ſubject they ultimately tended. Of many parts of theſe they talked with much poſitiveneſs, though little judgment, and, at length, each deviated into the particular parts which,

which, he ſaid, he had performed. The glaſs had, by this time, circulated ſo freely, that they ſoon threw off all reſtraint in my company. Specimens were the conſequence; in the courſe of which many ſpeeches were mangled by theſe gentlemen, but few ſpoken with any propriety.

There was but one thing wanting, as I thought, to complete the ſcene; and that was the company of ſome of the actreſſes. Opportunely enough, three of theſe were introduced by ſome of the men, who, when they had drank a little, began to throw off an affectation that at firſt they thought proper to adopt, and which appeared, indeed, moſt ridiculous in them. Soon after their arrival, the Manager favoured us with his company, who appeared to be a perſon of good common ſenſe, and ſome knowledge of the world. Nor did he ſo

much violate the rules of propriety in the ſpeeches he thought fit to oblige us with as to render him in that reſpect contemptible.

He brought with him a young man, who, as he told us, had not been long in that walk of life, as, indeed, I ſhould have been inclined to judge by his behaviour. For this reaſon, he did not ſeem to be the beſt companion for the reſt of the dramatic gentlemen, a circumſtance which, perhaps, induced me, in ſome meaſure, to conſider him as the more worthy of my particular notice. I wiſhed to enter into a converſation with him; and, therefore, when he retired, as I perceived he went out ſingly, I took an opportunity to withdraw likewiſe. Walking along with him, we entered into diſcourſe, and I invited him to drink a ſocial glaſs with me at the next public houſe.

houſe. He accepted the invitation, and I ſoon found that he was not by any means ſo reſerved as, at firſt, he had appeared to be.

When we were ſeated together, he began to talk freely of the players, whoſe company we had juſt left, and in particular of the Manager, of whom he gave me the following ſhort account:

"That his name was R..... and that he was born in a neighbouring county, where he was bred to a manufacturing buſineſs; but had always proved idle and neglectful. However, his relations, being poſſeſſed of money, ſet him up in his trade. In this ſituation, without induſtry, he had a proſpect of tolerable ſucceſs, when the depravity of his mind cauſed him to enter into a criminal connection with his own ſiſter, their parents being then deceaſed.

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She became pregnant; and the matter being blazed abroad, he found neither cuſtom nor countenance in the place of his nativity. Thus driven from thence he wandered for ſome time about the country, until at laſt he came to Suſſex, where both he and his ſiſter entered into ſervice with different perſons, and, under the idea of being Couſins, had the effrontery to be joined in marriage. But here alſo being diſcovered, they were reſpectively diſcharged, and once more became wanderers in the land. Various were their adventures; at one time they joined a gang of gypſies; at another they were taken up as vagrants. At laſt, in Kent, they were received into a company of ſtrollers, R . . . . . having ſome notion of dramatic ſpeaking. He recompenſed the Manager by ſeparating the company, a part of whom he took with him, and ſet up

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for himſelf. The perſon to whom he was ungrateful dying, he became the only Manager in thoſe parts, and had the ſkill to ſave a conſiderable ſum of money by this profeſſion. He was, however, little regarded by his people, on account of his uſing all poſſible means to make an undue advantage of their ſcanty earnings. Nor did he go untold of his inceſtuous marriage; but thoſe deſerved reproaches he conſtantly bore with all the coolneſs of a Philoſopher."

Having been ſo communicative with regard to the hiſtory of the Manager, and given me ſome idea of the characters of ſeveral others in the company, I thought it would not be very difficult to get this young man to give me ſome outlines of his own ſtory. He perceived my drift, and, obſerving, That he had no objection to gratify

tify a curioſity of that kind, without waiting for farther ſolicitation, he began in the following manner:

"I was born in the Weſt of England, where my father was embarked in a gainful buſineſs; but his proſpects were ruined by connecting himſelf with an artful and fraudulent partner. He became a bankrupt, and ſoon after fell ſick of a fever, which occaſioned his death. My mother had ſome years before paid the debt of nature; ſo that I was left an orphan, and had no refuge but in the protection of my paternal uncle, who had received great favours from my parents in his earlier days. He took care to let me know that he received me only as on charity. His manner of ſupporting me confirmed his words; and I thought myſelf happy, when a neighbouring tradeſman offered to take me apprentice, without

without a premium, a circumſtance which was moſt agreeable to me, becauſe it would deliver me from perpetual mortifications and many upbraidings.

" Had my maſter's conſort been of a good temper, I might, indeed, have been happy. But it fell out that ſhe was of a very uneaſy diſpoſition, and perpetually addicted to finding fault. Not at all pleaſed with the terms on which my maſter had received me, there was ſcarcely any thing that I ſaid or did could pleaſe. Perpetual complaints made to my uncle, thus rendered my life ſo uneaſy, that, in the impatience of youth, I eloped from my maſter, with whom I could not truly find any fault, on account of the behaviour of a woman whom I plainly perceived to be his ruler.

" Inconſiderate as I was, I ſet out on foot for the capital, where I underſtood I had a relation

lation by my mother's ſide, whom I ſuppoſed I ſhould find willing to receive me. But, after having gone through various fatigues, when I came to London, and had with ſome difficulty found out his place of reſidence, according to my direction, I was given to underſtand that he was removed with his family to ſome place in the North of England. It is eaſy to conceive what a ſhock this intelligence muſt give to one in my ſituation. Not knowing in what method to diſpoſe of myſelf, I w dered towards the Royal Exchange, where I ſaw various bills poſted up for the reception of men and boys on board different veſſels. I then concluded on offering myſelf to the commander of a Privateer. I was accepted; and we cruiſed for ſeveral months, but without ſucceſs.

" On

" On my return I was preſſed on board a Man of War. When Peace was concluded, I was among the number of diſcharged Sailors, having no prize money to receive, and finding ſuch difficulty to obtain the little wages due to me, that I might ſay it was nearly ſpent before I got it. Again out of employ, in the courſe of my wanderings, I fell in with R....., who, liking my figure and addreſs, perſuaded me to become one of his company. Thus am I embarked in a way of life not of my chuſing, and which I ſhall endeavour to leave with the firſt favourable opportunity. For, in the firſt place, the mean light in which we appear, our acting only on ſufferance, and being liable to commitment as vagrants, muſt be irkſome to any man who has not loſt all his feelings. But, beſides theſe circumſtances, I have obſerved ſuch evil manners

ners among thoſe with whom I am thus obliged to be connected, as to give me a hearty diſguſt to their converſation. After what I have told you concerning our Manager, you cannot ſuppoſe he ſets a good pattern to his Company. If he did, their ſituation could never be ſuch as to induce them to follow his example.---You will perceive, by what I ſay, that *Neceſſity* has the greateſt ſhare in making me take up with this idle occupation, where all the vices of our ſuperiors are too often mixed with thoſe of the lower orders of the people, and where, if it be true that "Eaſe and living well make innocence," it may alſo be allowed, that the ſtrolling players have almoſt every chance of becoming ſome of the worſt people in the world."

Here the ſtroller finiſhed his ſtory; and we ſoon after fell into a diſcourſe on Plays and

and Players. In the courſe of this converſation on Dramatic Pieces and Poetry in general, the young man appeared to diſplay a good ſhare of judgment.--As to the ſubject of Actors, it was pretty plain all along, that he was by no means diſpoſed to be partial to thoſe of his own profeſſion. He obſerved, however, it ſeemed rather a hard meaſure, that ſuch of them as were engaged in travelling companies, beſides their difficulties, ſhould be treated with ſo much contempt. But this (ſaid he) is the caſe with Players and Muſicians. When once any of them are admitted into the Theatres, though many have been ſelected from this lower walk, they are then put into a line of reſpectability, which can hardly be ſaid to belong to them. While we are ſcarcely admitted to the Kitchen, they become Parlour-Gueſts: Their ſalaries are enormous,

and

and yet their extravagance often exceeds the bounds of them. Indeed, if people were to judge of the profeſſion by the lives of many of the performers, it might almoſt lead them to wiſh it excluded from the Commonwealth, did not the experience of ages ſhew us the convenience and utility of encouraging Dramatic Entertainments.

By this time I recollected that the hour of my departure was at hand;----therefore, having finiſhed our bottle, I took leave of my agreeable companion. When I returned, I found Amiel in waiting for me, whom I thanked for the opportunity he had afforded me of entertainment in his abſence. Mentioning the ſtory of the young Stroller to him, "He has told you truth, (ſaid he) and he is not without his merit. I can inform you that he will not long remain in the capacity of a ſtrolling player.--

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In the courſe of his travels with the Company of this infamous R..... he will meet with a perſon that will bring tidings of his mother's kinſman. The young man will be introduced to him, and placed in a more agreeable line of life; and, at his death, will receive a conſiderable fortune. All I can tell you of the Manager and his wife is, that they will both die miſerable, after the Company (by which alone they ſubſiſt) has left them, on account of their pride, covetouſneſs, and ill behaviour."

While we were thus diſcourſing, the Machine approached a town, which my aerial companion informed me was Graveſend. Here he made me obſerve ſeveral veſſels at anchor, which were Eaſt Indiamen. "It is chiefly by the Shipping (ſaid he) that the inhabitants here ſubſiſt; the Indiamen in particular, at ſtated times, in peace,

peace, contribute to their ſupport, and, beſides, keep the place *alive*, as it is called, by the buſtle into which they put it..-- There are generally ſome extraordinary Characters to be met with here. Perhaps the Aſiatics themſelves are not more remarkable for ſome particular *Traits*, than thoſe who gain their ſubſiſtance by making voyages to Aſia.

" Yonder goes one, who at home, and indeed in many private companies, is eſteemed a wit and a good natured fellow. But, if you examine his pretenſions to humour, you will find all he poſſeſſes to be the loweſt ribaldry. View him on board his ſhip, and he reſembles an Eaſtern Deſpot. Tyranny, accompanied by caprice, marks his government there. He is generally deſpiſed by his officers, and hated by his men. His boaſt of Seamanſhip is equally well founded

with

with his pretenſions to Wit. His Ship was loſt not long ſince by a moſt egregious blunder. But what are tyranny, abſurdity, and blunders in an Eaſt India captain's conduct, if he always takes care to keep powerful friends among the Directors.

" Entering that houſe, you may ſee a former Captain in the Company's ſervice. In his temper and diſpoſition he differs widely from the laſt mentioned perſon. He was promoted from a line which ſeldom furniſhes Commanders to any ſhips. But he had merit, at the ſame time that in all his actions he was peculiarly attentive to *Intereſt*. In the matter of contraband trade, few ever were greater offenders; yet he never received the ſlighteſt check upon this occaſion. The firſt veſſel he commanded he loſt; but as it happened not from negligence, this was properly enough looked

looked over, and he remained in the ſervice until he made a reſpectable fortune. While he was on his laſt voyage, it was his chance to meet, at Madagaſcar, with one of thoſe young women who are fitted out for the Eaſt, literally to ſeek their fortune. Theſe Female Volunteers, like the Male Cadets, are ranked on the liſt of preferment. Miſs H..... was a millener; ſhe had ſome relations in good circumſtances, who accommodated her for the expedition; and when the Captain firſt ſaw her, he became enamoured of her, though he was upwards of fifty, and ſhe was not a beauty. They were married at the firſt Engliſh ſettlement they reached, and the lady bore him a child. But ſome time after their return, from a groundleſs jealouſy, he made both her life and his own unhappy. In the end, this couple were ſeparated; but the ſeparation, which

which has accommodated one party with a ſettlement, beyond what ſhe could ever have expected, has rendered the other unhappy. This Commander is now in the Direction, and has lately had an increaſe of his fortune; yet, by his apparent uneaſineſs, he ſeems to confirm the old maxim, "That Riches alone cannot produce Felicity."

Oppoſite to Graveſend, I had a view of Tilbury Fort, intended to defend the paſſage of the Thames.--"It appears (ſaid I) that there are very few Caſtles or fortified places in this country; though hiſtory informs us that there once were many."--"True (replied Amiel) and you may live to ſee them increaſed, but, perhaps, not on a true principle. In thoſe ages, when Britain had not a Navy for her protection, Forts might be of great uſe, but the neceſſity for them diminiſhed in proportion as her hardy ſons

learned to defend an iſland, where it is ever beſt defended, on the watry element. To thinking perſons, numerous Fortifications formed by art, muſt appear to indicate ſome weakneſs in thoſe who place their confidence in them. You have read of nations who, without the advantages this iſle poſſeſſes, ſcorned to have recourſe to ſuch defences. But the decline of States, like that of men, bears ſome reſemblance to their Infancy. Hence you may expect the alteration I have mentioned will ariſe. The diminution of the Naval Strength, which, by her negligence, ſhe has ſuffered to prevail, will ſoon be apparent. Frequent checks and diſappointments will diminiſh that confidence in herſelf, which is, in reality, of conſequence to excite to *noble daring*. To people, who begin to loſe this Confidence, Fortifications will be neceſſary,

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not only to *defend*, but alſo to inſpire them with freſh Courage ; while the object being changed, they rely on external aids, inſtead of their native vigour, for Protection."

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

The aerial Travellers proceeded towards London. Characters of a Projector and his Companion. Strictures on the Situation and Police of the Metropolis.

THUS we proceeded, ſailing ſtill aloft over the ſilver tide, beholding beneath us the wealth of nations wafted by the ſwelling ſtream. From hence we obſerved the variegated ſcene exhibited on the banks, and all the beauties which mark

" ——— the matchleſs Vale of Thames,"

as the Poet terms it. Here indeed I beheld not the majeſty of the Nile, or the vaſtneſs of the ſea-like Plata, nor the ſtupendous landſcapes which either India boaſts. Theſe delight not the genius of Albion's

Albion's clime. But I ſurveyed, as it were, the beauties of a garden, and the charms of Nature heightened by the well-judged aſſiſtance of Art and human culture.

A few minutes brought us near the Capital, which I had already deſcried at a diſtance, and which, I muſt own, I had long wiſhed to be fully acquainted with.

Inclining now to the ſhores of the famed Auguſta, my companion ſtopped our Machine in its aerial courſe, while he thus addreſſed me:

"Having quitted America, your native ſoil, and taken a vaſt circuit through the æthereal regions; after having ſurveyed various nations of the extenſive continent, you have at laſt reached the metropolis of that country juſtly ſtyled the Mother of yours, though now that relation is forgotten, and all ties of union broken.

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I have already ſpoke of her decline, yet it becomes you to reſpect her, though not in her faults or weakneſſes. I know that you would wiſh to alight here; but this at preſent is not expedient. As you have traverſed different kingdoms abroad, ſo it is neceſſary that you ſhould here behold other provinces than this over which you hover with ſo much delight. In the great city, indeed, you will meet her that is moſt dear to you; but it will not be until a daring Genius (an Italian) ſhall here launch a Balloon in air, the firſt ever deſtined to conduct a traveller through this thin element. For it is not for you, at preſent, to exhibit ſuch a ſpectacle in this land. The people, often deceived by vain pretenders to arts, and by their own weakneſs, are not prepared for this. And, beſides other hidden reaſons, know, that were you to attempt it, their

their impatience would prevent your ſucceſs, unleſs you were ſupported by a power like that you now experience, which will not again be imparted to man. In this reſpect be content, remembering that to all men all things are not granted. By your journey you will even anſwer more than the end propoſed; and if mortals are ever ſatisfied, you ought to be ſo."

I ſubſcribed to the juſtice of Amiel's obſervations, and in this, as in all other matters, acknowledged the ſuperiority of my guide; yet I heaved a ſigh for Lucia, and it might be eaſily excuſed in an abſent Lover.

While he was thus converſing, I perceived two perſons on horſeback, preſſing haſtily forward. "Obſerve thoſe impatient travellers (ſaid Amiel): They would not be ſo eager if they knew they were hatening

haſtening to their ruin. One of them is a Projector: Such men are generally eſteemed poor; being made ſo by their projects; but with this man the caſe is different. If he is ever poor, it is owing only to his extravagance. His real name is R..... but he has more names than a Spaniard, any one of which he aſſumes, as beſt may ſuit his purpoſes. His fellow traveller is a fit companion for him. He is called L.....n, and has not found the occaſion to change his appellation which has induced the other ſo often to adopt that meaſure; tho', as to honeſty, the pretenſions of both ſtand nearly upon an equal footing.

"R..... in his early days was poſſeſſed of a fortune, ſaved by the induſtry of his father, to whom ſome gave the denomination of a miſer. This his ſon, at that time, was ſo little deſirous of following his parent's

parent's example, that he ran through about 5000l. in the ſpace of two years. A great part of this money he loſt at the Gaming Table; and in return for this loſs, by a ſort of commutation, ſome of the ſharpers who won his money inſtructed him in their art and myſtery. From the moment he commenced gambler, as muſt be the caſe with all ſuch, every ſpark of virtue was extinguiſhed in his breaſt. For ſeveral years he continued to ſubſiſt, (with various turns of fortune) by this very honourable profeſſion. He generally ſought his prey at thoſe towns of public reſort, called watering-places. He frequented Bath, Tunbridge, and Brighthelmſtone, and was ſucceſsful enough to pick up ſeveral hundreds in his excurſions, but coming to the capital, he was ſo unlucky as to be twice detected with falſe dice, in the neighbourhood of St. James's.

As he began to be blown, he thought proper to leave off gambling as a profeſſion; though he always continued to uſe it occaſionally. Changing now his name, as well as his occupation, he varied ſhapes like a Proteus. If any man was diſtreſſed for money, he was A Z, X Y, or any other letters of the alphabet, informing them, in the public papers, how they might obtain relief from their diſtreſſes; and *the utmoſt ſecrecy to be depended on.* From ſuch embarraſſed perſons R..... uſed to obtain notes, which he diſcounted, not for their ſervice, but his own; and this buſineſs too he carried on, till he became notorious as to his aſſumed name and local ſituation. But with regard to his perſon, as he always kept himſelf as cloſe as poſſible, and was an adept in the art of diſguiſes, he thought he

he had not much to fear on that ſcore. However, as he was not one of thoſe who wear out a ſcheme, he reſolved to change thoſe batteries which he was continually planting againſt the Public. In the firſt place, he reſolved to retire into one of the Welch counties. Beſides this; no longer a Gameſter with a laced waſtecoat, or an Ape of his diſſipated Superiors; no more a Tradeſman of ſeeming conſequence on the Exchange; he next aſſumed the appearance of a Projector.

"Clad in a black ſuit, as you now ſee him, he ſet on foot various ſchemes in Wales, not one of which he ever expected or deſigned to bring to perfection; but he took care to have a ſufficiency of money advanced on every one of them. Thus, even in his temporary retreat from London, he was induſtrious in his way; and, indeed, he

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was ſo well qualified for this laſt kind of deception, that he found it worth his while to continue it, in preference to all his other *worthy* occupations.

" Having ſufficiently tried his hand in Wales, he returned, and practiſed in various counties of England; and he is now returning to the metropolis, as you ſee, with his companion. Of the character of this man I mean to give you ſome idea.

" L.....n is a perſon of mean extraction; but by the inceſſant and indefatigable cares of his friends, poor as they were, he was got into the Blue-Coat School. There he was allotted to Trade. His genius ſeemed adapted to it, and his friends were happy in the idea that he would ſucceed in buſineſs at ſome future time. He was put apprentice to a grocer in the city, to whom it is but juſtice to acknowledge, he ſerved

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ſo well, that his maſter, dying juſt as his time expired, left him a ſmall ſum of money, with which he entered into trade, under the reſtriction of removing to a ſettled diſtance.

" But L . . . . . n was not content with the ſlow returns in the grocery way. He was in haſte to be rich, which in ſuch a ſituation could hardly be his lot, without a more extenſive capital.

" Willing, however, to make the moſt of what he had, he entered into connexions with thoſe peſts of ſociety who ſold ſmuggled commodities; but in this he had but little ſucceſs. He was taken notice of, and fined in the Exchequer; he was forced to abſcond until that ſum, which was very conſiderable, was mitigated; but the levying of it proved the ruin of his buſineſs; a juſt recompence for his unlawful practices.

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" He had the addreſs, however, not to loſe all in the wreck. With what he could ſave, he removed into the out-ſkirts of the town, where he perſuaded a credulous young man, allured by an Advertiſement, to embark 500 l. in trade with him. While he was deviſing how he ſhould make this ſum his own, the young man died, and as there was no acknowledgment of any thing advanced but ſuch as he had in poſſeſſion, this *honeſt* tradeſman deſtroyed it. He reſtored his partner's watch, a purſe with a few guineas, and other trifles, to his relations, and they were obliged to be contented with his word as to the reſt.

" But L . . . . . n aimed at ſomething more extenſive. During the whole time that he had been in buſineſs, he was always induſtrious in *adulterating* ſuch articles as he ſold. His brain, ever at work to deviſe evil,

evil, at length ſuggeſted to him an idea, which perhaps you may think rather extraordinary.---Moſt people in trade (ſaid he, reaſoning from his own practice) wiſh to *mix* ſuch articles as will bear it; would it not then be convenient to them, if there were a warehouſe eſtabliſhed to which they could at all times refer for any of theſe mixtures?---A thought of this ſort, conceived in an evil mind, was not long before it was brought forth into Practice. L.....n removed again into the city. He took a houſe and warehouſe in the city; and though he carried on trade under a ſpecious name in the wholeſale way; yet it was well known to all whom he wiſhed to deal with, that he dealt *ſolely* in adulterated commodities.

" There was not an article that would admit of a mixture for which he had not a

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ſuccedaneum; and he, beſides, ſuggeſted the means of adulterating many which had remained pure before. Such a trade was certainly ſhameful to the metropolis in which it was carried on. In ſome countries this man would have been impriſoned for life, if he had not ſuffered by the hands of the Executioner. But in London this is far from being the caſe; and, under the idea of liberty, every villain, in ſuch modes as theſe, may cheat his neighbour with impunity.

" In order to ſtrengthen his hands, L.....n took a Jew into partnerſhip with him.--The Jew advanced money, and was, beſides, uſeful in his clandeſtine buſineſs. Yet his rapacious partner was not ſatisfied; he wiſhed to ſerve the Iſraelite in the manner he had ſerved his Chriſtian brother, as I have before related. But he forgot

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that Jews are a ſharp ſet of people; he forgot that he had been too open with a perſon that he intended to break with. Beſides this villainous buſineſs, which he carried on to a great extent, he had been guilty of a defraud on an unſuſpecting perſon. With this the Jew was acquainted; and in order ſtill more to embarraſs L.....n, when he turned him out of the partnerſhip, he contrived to have ſmuggled goods lodged in his houſe, which the other really had no concerns in. This was done by means of a ſervant, to whom our *worthy* tradeſman gave warning becauſe he frequently was ſo unguarded as to give his maſter's adulterated commodities their *right* appellation.

" Thus he is once more under an Extent, and liable to proſecution for a fraud; while

while his friend R . . . . . is to meet with unexpected embarraſſments.

" It was at one of the watering-places, whither the former went on account of a ſlight indiſpoſition, being careful of his *very valuable* life, that theſe two friends, as they now are, firſt met, and combined to aid each other in their various ways of impoſing on mankind. They are brethren in iniquity, and ſhortly they will be brethren in misfortunes. Better characters have ſuffered on a gibbet than either of theſe now in queſtion.

" R . . . . . has ſo far forgot himſelf as to do an action which makes him amenable to the laws of his country, which before could not reach him. He has made free with the name of one who encouraged him in his projects. He doubted not, when he did this, but that he ſhould be welcome to

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the ſum for the ſake of which he tried ſo dangerous an experiment. So he might at that time; but the gentleman, who is now in London, having found how much he has deceived him with his Projects, has learned how to hold him in proper eſtimation. Appriſed that a matter of this kind has taken place, this gentleman is preparing to ſeize his falſe friend and bring him to the puniſhment which he has long before deſerved. But mortals are ſhort-ſighted; It is not thus that he is to receive the reward of his demerits; yet Heaven will neither ſuffer him nor his companion to eſcape with impunity.

"L.....n will uſe his former method of drawing together what he can out of that property which he ſuſpects will go to ruin. R..... will endeavour to imitate him, as far as the nature of his circumſtances will admit,

admit, and they will both abſcond, and direct their courſe for the Continent.

" They will arrive there. Even now I ſee them on their paſſage. I view them filled with exultation, not long to laſt. I perceive them in France purſuing, not the ſame courſes they did in England, for thoſe are precluded them, but ſuch as bring them more certainly to their ruin. After an attempt at playing the common cheat of impoſtors, they get into a gang of highway robbers; they are concerned in a robbery and murder, and broken upon the wheel. What excruciating Tortures, which men exerciſe on one another, which would make almoſt an Angel weep, and yet are pleaded for as neceſſary to keep you from preying, like wild beaſts, upon each other!

" Are you diſpleaſed with this portrait of Human Nature? You need but look around you,

you, and confeſs it to be a true one. If all men were left to themſelves, the picture would be more general, and eſpecially in regard to the individuals inhabiting the metropolis beneath us."---

"I have always heard (anſwered I) that a capital of a great ſize was a great evil; yet what is the conſequence of the obſervation, ſince ſo many find, or *ſuppoſe* that they find, convenience in ſuch a ſituation?"

"That great cities are burthenſome to an empire, when they ſwell to the proportion of that beneath us, (ſaid Amiel) has long been allowed. That a train of evils attends too often the aſſembling vaſt numbers of perſons, in contiguous dwellings, is philoſophically true. Experience proves this more ſtrongly than theory, as you muſt be well acquainted."

"It

" It is true (anſwered I) but what does it ſignify? All this and more operates not to the ſuppreſſion of the evil. Is it not wonderful that ſuch abſurdity ſhould prevail?"

Amiel replied---" It can ſcarcely be called wonderful that Mortals ſhould act abſurdly in this, as well as in other matters. The political ills which ariſe from the vaſt ſize of the Metropolis of Great Britain, are evident. The inconveniences in civil government are many. It is a complaint of long ſtanding, that the quantity of proviſions required, and conſumed by the inhabitants, exaggerates the price of them; yet no ſteps are taken to prevent theſe evils. The conſequence of ſo many people being crowded together, in one place, is inimical to health. This is acknowledged; yet they flock from all parts hither daily. The

worſt

worſt of vices are here foſtered;--yet what numbers are contented to come and ſettle with their families here, exchanging, for the mere ſight of a ſplendour, of which moſt of them can hardly hope to partake, the ſeats of rural peace and tranquility. It is allowed, on all hands, that the head is too big for the body; but notwithſtanding this, it is allowed to increaſe, while the other members decline in proportion. Believe me, Mortal, far the greater part of thy kind are calculated rather to *declaim* about ills, than to *prevent* them; rather to *reaſon* againſt crimes and abſurdities, than to *avoid* them."

I owned in my heart the juſtice of the obſervation; and whilſt I gave my aſſent to the truth of it, I deplored the Depravity of Human Nature; or, if I am to expreſs it in ſofter terms, the Weakneſs of Humanity.

Amiel

Amiel perceived me penſive, and, according to his uſual cuſtom, rouſed me to the contemplation of new objects.

" You cannot, ſaid he, have a more noble view of the magnificent buildings of this Capital, than from our preſent height. All theſe are ornamental; though all are not uſeful. Among the beſt of them are thoſe allotted to commercial and charitable inſtitutions."

" Then *Charity* yet prevails in this diſſipated Capital."

" In the breaſts of ſome it certainly does, (replied my aerial companion,) in a degree that does honour to humanity. In many, mere oſtentation has the greater ſhare, as to the part which they bear in theſe inſtitutions. But whatſoever be the motive, their utility (notwithſtanding various abuſes) is certainly ſuch as entitles them to encourage-

encouragement in Britain, or any other country."

The extenſive view of London now fully opened on me; its palaces, its fanes, with gilded ſpires, and public edifices, all glittering in the ſun; contraſted by the fields, covered with verdure or the gifts of Ceres, afforded a moſt delightful proſpect.

Being come near the Exchange, Amiel for a while again ſtaid our Machine, as he had told me already that he intended not that I ſhould at preſent enter the metropolis; and I was perfectly happy in ſubmitting myſelf to the will of my friendly conductor.

It was Summer.---The great city had been emptied of ſome thouſands of its inhabitants, who ſought the adjacent rural ſeats, in order, for a few months, to change the ſcene, and to remain in the country

until they ſhould be tired of the ſcenes of ſimple Nature, and ready to return to thoſe of hurry and diſſipation; thoſe ſcenes which my companion had been deſcribing ſo unfavourably, and which were, at the ſame time, reprobated and reſorted to by ſuch numbers.

Yet ſtill, to compare great things with ſmall, the metropolis, like a bee-hive, ſent forth its ſwarms; all crowded, all buſy; and the perpetual hum aſcended to us, where we ſat involved in a veil, which my aerial companion provided us, whenever we were near the manſions of men, in order that our Machine might not attract the eyes of the gaping multitude.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Various Objects of Entertainment. Obſervations on Crimes and their Puniſhment in this Country. Character of a Swindler; his various Frauds, and the End of his Career in a foreign Land.

AS we ſailed ſlowly over the Metropolis, I was entertained with a variety of objects, which ſeeing, whilſt unſeen, imparted a moſt pleaſing ſenſation. Though at ſo conſiderable a height in the air, "the buſy hum of men" ſaluted my ears, ſo as to put me in mind of the *Houſe of Rumour*, as deſcribed by the Poet.

In this manner we paſſed over two Buildings, which could not but attract my notice; they were the Gaol of Newgate, and the Seſſions Houſe; the Cathedral of St. Paul

Paul being in view, of which I had often heard deſcriptions, and the architecture of which needs no comment.---" The efforts of a mad multitude, under the maſk of Religion, (ſaid Amiel) aiming at the worſt of purpoſes, had ſome time ſince gone near to lay this capital in ruins. A few of the moſt contemptible of theſe formed the deſign of burning the Gaols, and ſetting free the Criminals. You ſee there are men now at work in repairing this priſon, which had been but lately rebuilt, and had become an object of their fury. Some were ſlain, ſome ſuffered on gibbets, ſome fell victims to their own folly and wickedneſs, and a moſt amazing ſcene of confuſion, was the conſequence of Authority's being held with too ſlack a hand, becauſe it was delegated to improper perſons.

" At

" At the adjacent Building the court are holding their periodical ſeſſions. At each of theſe, as doubtleſs you have often heard, a greater number of Offenders are condemned to ſuffer death than in any other city of Europe. The catalogue of crimes marked for capital puniſhment is continually increaſing; yet that of the criminals decreaſes not. For when men are about to tranſgreſs the laws, it is not ſo much the *nature* of the puniſhment as the *certainty* of it that is likely to affect them. In England the chances of eſcaping are many. Beſides that of not being detected, in the firſt inſtance, the poſſibility of flaws in the indictment, deſpicable quibbles on words, the miſtaken lenity of a jury, or perhaps their ignorance, and the chicanery of the priſoner's counſel, are to be taken into the account. Should all theſe fail, mercy may yet

yet be extended, as it often has been to the undeſerving, by the power of Art, or through the prevalence of Intereſt.

" The increaſe of the number of capital puniſhments therefore has not, nor can it have the deſired effect. Indeed there are ſome inſtances wherein this mode operates to defeat its own purpoſe. One of theſe is the unwillingneſs of men to decide againſt the lives of their fellow-creatures. Thus they are led to acquit the culprit whom, if the puniſhment were not capital, they would be diſpoſed to condemn.

" It is to be obſerved alſo, that ſmall crimes do not meet with ſufficient chaſtiſement, nor are, indeed, ſufficiently noticed to anſwer that great end of *Prevention*, which is certainly better than *Puniſhment*, as is acknowledged in all well-ordered governments. On the other hand, a ſet of infa-

mous

mous perſons are employed to detect depredators. But this end they only anſwer when a capital caſe produces a ſuitable reward. Thus in all the firſt ſtages of guilt, the Offenders are encouraged; nay, the latter are weak enough to aſſociate with thoſe who afterwards prove their detectors. It is, indeed, by theſe means that they are brought to Puniſhment; but it is by ſimilar means likewiſe that they are brought to Criminality. Thus the informers often *make* as many thieves as they *detect*, who are nurſed up, as it were, in ſuch houſes of reſort as muſt pave the way to their deſtruction. The neglect of Parents, who at this time are frequently too remiſs in giving their children either due inſtruction or wholeſome chaſtiſement when they deſerve it, are the ſprings of that licentiouſneſs which is ſo prevalent in this country."

While

While Amiel was thus diſcourſing, the Balloon proceeded Weſtward. We now paſſed over Temple Bar, famous for having been decorated with ſuch ornaments as would better have become the *Man-Killers* of America, than the rulers of a civiliſed nation to affix there. Time, however, has done its part towards removing the *ſtigma*. Let Britons hope to ſee no more ſuch ſights in their days; nor ever enjoy ſuch "poor triumphs of low illiberal minds" over a vanquiſhed enemy, even though the name of Traitor be ſuperadded.

A lofty pile next attracted my notice, on which the workmen were yet buſily employed. "This (ſaid Amiel) is intended for a range of Offices, and will take up the ground formerly occupied by an old palace. Here already the members of a Royal Inſtitution have eſtabliſhed a public Exhibition, which

which does honor to the Prince and to the Artiſts. To encourage arts and ſciences is juſtly eſteemed as one of the moſt ſhining qualities in a monarch. They are always deſerving the attention of the Sovereign of a great Empire."

In the neighbourhood of Covent Garden I obſerved a crowd aſſembled round a middle-aged man of a decent appearance, whom they would have uſed very ill, had not the confuſion, occaſioned by a bullock broke out of a ſlaughter-houſe, given him an opportunity of eſcaping.

Amiel informed me that the perſon, whom I was inclined to compaſſionate, was one of the moſt undeſerving of mortals. "It is not (ſaid he) for a promiſcuous aſſemblage of perſons to take upon them to puniſh men for their crimes, of which they cannot

have proper cognizance; and in this they are highly blameable. Yet it is a melancholy conſideration, on the other hand, that there are certain miſchiefs that a bad man may do, even in a land where capital puniſhments are ſo numerous, without affecting his life, or receiving any legal chaſtiſement.

"There are many in this Metropolis and in various parts of the kingdom who are ready enough to take advantage of ſuch circumſtances. One of theſe is the perſon whom you perceived to be in ſuch danger from the populace. He is a Swindler in the very worſt ſenſe of the word. He is deceitful as he is ungrateful, and immoral as he is impious.

"This man's name is T.....n: He is deſcended of reputable parents, was early

early ſettled in a genteel buſineſs; but by his negligence and extravagances, ran out a handſome ſum of money.---He made a Bankruptcy, which there was reaſon to ſuſpect not to be the faireſt in the world. This was in the capital of a Northern county; from thence he ſoon after came up to the Metropolis, bringing with him a ſiſter, whoſe morals had been early tainted by her criminal connection with the looſe and diſhonourable nephew of a neighbouring Baronet. On their arrival in London, ſhe for ſome time kept her brother's houſe, when he ſet up again in buſineſs. An old laſcivious Peer, however, caſt his eyes upon her, ſhe yielded to his ſolicitations, and became his Miſtreſs, after having got a conſiderable ſettlement ſecured to her.

"In the mean time T . . . . . n thought of many ſchemes to increaſe his capital. Among

Among the reſt, he advertiſed for a partner, and he had the fortune to light on ſuch a perſon as he wiſhed for. An unexperienced youth, lately arrived in town, but whoſe relations ſtill reſided in the country, accepted his offer, and, in the end, became the dupe of his artifices. This young man brought about 3000l. with him into trade. The money was advanced at different times, but, ſtrange as it may ſeem, the vouchers for it remained in the hands of T . . . . . n, who artfully enough took upon himſelf the buſineſs of the Caſh Account, and indeed all that related to the book-keeping, adviſing his partner to attend to the out-door buſineſs, at the ſame time intimating, that to drink his bottle now and then at the Tavern would be of great utility in making acquaintance, and procuring cuſtomers, for their mutual benefit.

" The

" The youth readily ſwallowed the bait, and thus he was kept in ignorance of what paſſed at home. His wily partner alſo took occaſion, from ſome little exceſſes which he deſigned he ſhould fall into, to complain by letter to his mother and other relations of his remiſſneſs and bad behaviour. Theſe complaints were conveyed ſo artfully, and in a manner ſo apparently delicate, as fearful of offending, that the author of them was not made known to the party until too late. All this while T.....n was forming his ſcheme to defraud the unthinking perſon of the greater part of his property.

" When he thought matters were in a proper train to anſwer his purpoſe, he began to aſſume a haughty and ſurly behaviour towards his partner, and by degrees grew quarrelſome, wiſhing to render unhappy the ſituation of the perſon whom he intended

to

to injure. The youth at laſt took fire, and high words aroſe, in the courſe of which this artificer of fraud pretended warmly to reproach him for that diſſipation which, it was now pretended, muſt prove ruinous to the Buſineſs, and expreſſed his deſire to get rid of ſuch a partner. The other, after remarking T..... n's own advice, told him, he was ready to quit the partnerſhip and the houſe intirely, after receiving his capital and the dividend due upon it out of trade. But when he came to ſpeak of 3000l. his partner pretended to be aſtoniſhed; he would acknowledge only to 500l. and a ſmall profit upon it. He defied the young man to prove any more. Indeed, even this it was, in ſome reſpects, in his power to have withheld, as I have obſerved; but he thought ſuch a proceeding would be too barefaced.

" The Victim of Credulity was now in *reality* more aſtoniſhed than T . . . . . n had *pretended* to be. But when he grew enraged, the latter only coolly told him, That paſſionate people generally ſhewed themſelves to be in the wrong, and deſired he would quit the premiſes; and he might ſend his Attorney, when he pleaſed, to talk about the matter.

" The youth departed; he conſulted his acquaintance in town; he wrote to his mother and other relations in the country. Theſe latter knew well what money they had ſent the perſon in queſtion; but T.....n admitting this part of the fact, contented himſelf with denying the reſt. He ſaid his partner might have received ſuch a ſum, or more; but he perſiſted in aſſerting, that 500l. was all that had been put into Trade, and there was nothing better than preſump-

tive

tive proof, at moſt, to be produced againſt him. Without vouchers, without witneſſes, the aggrieved party went about to employ a lawyer, againſt one who would certainly uſe his own money to baffle him.

"T.....n had declared, that he would abide by his Books, and that he was ready to ſwear to them, if required. In a caſe of this kind, there remained little elſe neceſſary to ſhew that villainy would be ſucceſsful. Perjury, in the hands of a bad man, too frequently proves a weapon with which he foils his opponents, though he wounds himſelf more deeply, in the end, by uſing it.

"The 500l. had been regularly tendered, and refuſed; and as the matter produced a ſuit of law, it was now paid into Court, where both parties were to abide the deciſion.

"The

" The fraudful T.....n had little doubt of ſucceeding. The affair was put by the plaintiff into the hands of a lawyer of moſt ſpecious ſpeech and manners, but one that would have managed to loſe a cauſe, the grounds of which had appeared much better eſtabliſhed, if he could have contrived to be a gainer by ſuch iniquity. The defendant tampered with him, and he gained his ſuit the more eaſily, while every ſtep that the injured party attempted to take, in order to recover his right, only plunged him deeper in ruinous expences. In the end, being foiled in all his endeavours, he was compelled to accept of the ſum firſt offered, the greater part of which was beſtowed upon the coſts of ſuit. Thus ruined in England, the youth embarked, in order to take his chance in the New World; but he died on his paſſage. The

author

author of his misfortunes will end his life yet more unhappily.

"Though many people thought T..... n had been a villain in this buſineſs; yet there were others who entertained a contrary opinion of the matter. One gentleman, in particular, left him in joint truſt with a merchant's widow, as guardian to his daughter, at his deceaſe. The old gentlewoman not long ſurviving Arabella's father, ſhe remained entirely under the care of T.....n, moſt unhappily for her future intereſts.

"Arabella's perſon was agreeable; her temper gentle, and perhaps too flexile; but her fortune was what principally engaged the attention of her *worthy* Guardian. At firſt he formed a deſign of addreſſing her with a view to marriage; but he afterwards conſidered whether it might not be more eligible for him to get poſſeſſion of her

her property, or the principal part of it, if poſſible, without the incumbrance. It was one and the ſame, almoſt, to one of this man's diſpoſition, to *will* an evil, and to *do* it. Having once determined on defrauding Arabella, he was reſtleſs till he found the means of putting ſome part of his deſign into execution.

" The young lady's ſituation, indeed, was ſomewhat like that of T . . . . . n's late partner; ſhe was too much in the power of one who had too little regard for Honeſty. He made free with her money from time to time; and having prevailed on her to chuſe another Guardian, contrived that ſhe ſhould pitch upon one who was in his own intereſt. Nothing but colluſions took place between them. In the mean time, this wicked deceiver being yet in the prime of life, though near ten years older than

Arabella,

Arabella, contrived to insinuate himself into her affections. He consequently possessed himself of such a share of her esteem, that she could not entertain the least suspicion of his fidelity in any transaction whatsoever.

" He was so confident of his success in any attempt with this unsuspecting girl, that he would not have doubted the possibility of fraudulently obtaining from her a Deed of Gift of her whole Fortune. But as she was a Minor, this would not have answered the end proposed. However, as far as false accounts went, he was prepared to answer for great sums, which he and his Colleague had embezzled. And besides this, they lodged some thousands of her property, as he pretended, with a view entirely to her advantage, in the hands of one who shortly after decamped with

with that and other ſums as conſiderable. Yet, though *he* diſappeared, T.....n was not without his certain ſhare of gain by the infamous tranſaction.

" But previous to this, the Guardian finding her attachment ſo ſtrong to him, unworthy as he was, made an effort to debauch her perſon, for which purpoſe he had vows of Conſtancy and Matrimony ready. However, he did not find Arabella's Chaſtity ſo eaſy to triumph over as he had conceived. When he perceived ſhe began to demur on this point, and to doubt him, he did not chuſe to hazard any thing; he, therefore, contented himſelf, at that time, with praiſing her virtues, of which he pretended he had only made a trial. Yet he perceived it was with ſome difficulty ſhe had reſiſted. Purſuing his deſign, with the underhand aſſiſtance of the woman where his

his Ward lodged, whom he had corrupted with money, he at laſt found means, by the infamous art of intoxication, to gain poſſeſſion of her Perſon, whoſe Fortune he had already made ſo free with.

" Though he afterwards received a thouſand merited reproaches, yet he then plainly underſtood that the remainder of what ſhe poſſeſſed was at his ſervice, if he would marry this injured fair one. But that hope was not ſufficient to induce this villain to make her what is generally eſteemed the only reparation for ſuch an injury. He had an inſuperable averſion to Matrimony, as he had to every good Inſtitution, being, as I have before ſaid, profane and immoral in all his actions. Yet he diſſembled for a while, until he could deviſe ſome means of getting more of Arabella's fortune into his unrelenting drag-net, and, if poſſible,

of

of preventing the miſchief he had to apprehend from provoking her reſentment.

" As he was meditating theſe deſigns, he received a meſſage from the other Guardian, whoſe name was N....., deſiring to ſee him immediately. The buſineſs he had to communicate to him was, that the young lady having at length partly opened her eyes to the character of her pretended lover, had reſorted to him, to complain of his brother in iniquity. It is eaſy to conceive that T.....n was glad *that* was the quarter where the offended party had choſen to make her remonſtrances. Her behaviour at this juncture ſerved but to confirm him in the opinion he had always entertained of her weakneſs.

" It is eaſy to imagine that theſe two concerted means farther to embarraſs Arabella. She was now juſt of age, and demanded

manded an account of her fortune. That which ſhe received from T.....n was ſuch as, notwithſtanding her ſuſpicions, ſtruck her with aſtoniſhment. As for N....., he ſaid, that though there was little doubt of the other's wicked proceedings, yet he could produce proofs that he had acted fairly, and with proper regard to his Ward's advantage. At firſt ſhe ſincerely believed him, and conſulted him on the mode proper to be adopted for forcing this bad man to do her juſtice. It is eaſy to conceive that he failed not to give her ſuch directions as ſerved completely to embarraſs her Cauſe, and confound all the proceedings which were carried on by creatures of his own. And he ſucceeded accordingly.

" Several months elapſed before Arabella was aware of this duplicity. At length a worthy young gentleman, who became, by chance,

chance, at once acquainted with, and enamoured of her, endeavoured to ſee her righted. Having been well informed with regard to ſome of the frauds of T.....n, and the conduct of his Brother Guardian, he pronounced them both to be Cheats, and offered to deal with them accordingly. This generous proffer of aſſiſtance was accepted; but it came too late; for before this friendly youth could proceed in the buſineſs, theſe two defrauders had withdrawn to Holland, having ſo diſpoſed of all the money in their hands, that neither Arabella nor any of their creditors could ever recover a ſhilling.

"Preſuming upon a diſguiſe this T.....n has lately come over on a temporary buſineſs, of a nature not at all to his honour, and chanced, juſt at the time you obſerved him, to be met by the huſband of the in-

jured Arabella, to whom he had been pointed out before he left England. The nature of ſuch a meeting, you will eaſily conceive. T.....n however, in order to preſerve the appearance of that pretended Innocence, which had not as yet been impeached in a Court of Juſtice, was loud and abuſive. The other, ill brooking this, returned him manual chaſtiſement. This brought together a crowd, who enquiring why the apparent aggreſſor had behaved thus, on information behaved as you have ſeen. I believe you will not now compaſſionate the ſeeming ſufferer."

"He deſerves to ſuffer on the gallows," cried I, ſomewhat vehemently.

"True, returned Amiel; but all men do not, in this world, meet with their deſerts: with regard to the next, I have it not in commiſſion to ſpeak to you. But as

to

to this man, I ſaid before he would not die in peace. I will tell you what yet remains to befall him.

" Much diſconcerted to perceive that he was ſo eaſily diſcovered in England, T.....n makes haſte to finiſh his affairs here, and immediately return from whence he came. He finds his partner in iniquity dead; and as ſome practices, not the moſt honeſt, were made uſe of by both of them, while in that country, hearing that certain Papers had fallen into the hands of ſtrangers, he is ſtruck with a panic. Collecting his ill-got money together, he reſolves to quit Holland with the firſt opportunity; and judging that frauds might be more eaſily practiſed in riſing States, than in ſuch as were long eſtabliſhed, he determines, if poſſible, to ſeek the American ſhores. Accordingly he embarks for New

England.

England. The young man, whom he had injured in the early part of his life, periſhed on his paſſage thither; but T.....n arrives there in ſafety.

"He appears in the character of a Tradeſman, but ſtill with a view to fraudulent practices; ſome of which being diſcovered, he is obliged to ſhift his ground. Grown hardened in infamy, and more greedy of gain than ever, he proceeds yet farther in his career; but being again detected, he is again obliged to withdraw. He now retires to the back ſettlements, intending to remain there for a while, until an opportunity ſhall offer to renew his frauds in ſome more convenient place. But while he remains in this ſituation, a party of Indians, being then out on the buſineſs of depredation, make an incurſion into the neighbourhood. They carry off ſome property,

perty, and deſtroy much more. T.....n, who is among the ſufferers, the next day joins the inhabitants, who collect themſelves in a body to purſue the Savages.

" They overtake the enemy, and a deſperate fight enſues; in the event of which, Fortune declares for the Indians. T.....n is left wounded on the field, and conſequently falls into the hands of the Victors. Being much enraged at the fate of ſeveral of their countrymen, who periſhed in the engagement, they are deaf to all his prayers for mercy, and in the midſt of his ſupplications put him to a moſt cruel death.

" Thus ends the hiſtory of one, who was very rarely known to do a worthy action, whoſe life was a ſeries of Villainy and Deceit, and whoſe exiſtence was injurious to Society.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

They quit the Capital. Paſs by Windſor-Caſtle. Obſervations on that Edifice, on Knighthood and Chivalry. They arrive at Reading. A Diſpute concerning Air Balloons. The Author introduced to a ſelect Society.

AMIEL ſhewed me in proſpect, as we glided along, the ancient Abbey of Weſtminſter, famous for the monuments of ſo many Kings, Divines, Heroes, Poets, and Philoſophers;--the adjacent Houſes of Parliament, and the Royal Palaces:--On all theſe he made but few remarks, as he obſerved that I ſhould be better acquainted with them hereafter.

Quitting the Capital entirely, a ſhort ſpace of time brought us to Windſor-Caſtle, where, aloft in air, we hovered over that

that ſeat of Monarchs and of Knights, the boaſt of Britiſh Antiquity.

" You have doubtleſs heard of Windſor, (ſaid Amiel) behold it now beneath us. Theſe are the Towers frequented by ſo many Kings; the Birth-place of ſome, the Burial-place of others, and ſtill the favoured ſeat of Royalty and Knighthood."

As he was proceeding, he brought to my mind many lines of the Poet, relative to this ſubject, among which the former are peculiarly ſtriking.

" Here o'er the martyr'd King the Marble weeps,
" And faſt beſide him once-fear'd Edward ſleeps:
" Whom not th' extended Albion could contain,
" From old Belerium to the Northern Main,
" The grave unites; where ev'n the Great find Reſt;
" There blended lie th' oppreſſor and the oppreſt."

" This place (continued my companion) was remarkably honoured in the times of chivalry;

chivalry; thoſe days of romance when knights were conſidered as the firſt of men in regard to virtue as well as valour."

"They are conſidered indeed as forming the Age of extravagance."

"They are ſo (returned Amiel) but it ſhould be conſidered likewiſe, that no Age is without its Extravagance, and ſomething may be allowed to Ignorance, by thoſe who live at a more enlightened period.

"There was, in truth, much of worth as well as bravery exiſting amongſt a number of characters in the days of chivalry. Though the Inſtitution itſelf was not founded on juſt principles, there was a principle of honor in the men and chaſtity in the women that was really deſerving of eſteem and admiration. And knighthood had its uſes, whilſt it was more than a mere name, and did not work people up to an enthuſiaſm

bordering

bordering upon madneſs.--It is to be obſerved likewiſe, that ſuch an age as that of chivalry was neceſſary, in the order of things, to prepare the way for thoſe ages which were to follow in ſucceſſion. The inſtitutions of government, and the manners of men, have ever been, like their improvements in knowledge, progreſſive. Were it otherwiſe, they would be immortals.

" As to what relates to this ſtructure, though built in the taſte of another age, it has a pleaſing effect, and as you will find, whenever your curioſity ſhall excite you to viſit it, the apartments and their adornments will be worth your beholding. The grand inſtitution of knighthood, ſtill kept here, is as reſpectable as human honours can be made, which will ever ſtand in need of ceremony to ſupport them. But the wiſe will acknowledge that virtue and worth can

alone conſtitute real and laſting honour, though tokens of diſtinction may ſometimes be neceſſary to ſtimulate heroic ardour."

Our Machine (which, however, did not always keep a direction ſtraight forward) now carried us towards Reading. The ſetting ſun gilded the horizon with his parting rays when we approached the town.--My companion made a motion to deſcend.--- The Balloon was ſecured in a proper place, and he gave me to underſtand that he ſhould leave me for the preſent, but I might expect to find him re-aſſuming the journey by ſunriſe the next morning.

By his direction I walked to an Inn not far from the middle of the town, where I entered the kitchen, and found ſome company aſſembled near the fire, as it was a cold evening, though in the Summer ſeaſon. Among theſe were a Schoolmaſter and an Exciſeman,

Exciſeman, who, it ſeems, had been arguing upon ſome learned topics. They were both reckoned by the company to be perſons of learning and underſtanding. But to the firſt of theſe in particular, it appeared that the Schoolmaſter only had a claim;--the other was but a pretender.

Among many ſubjects that of Air Balloons was brought on the *tapis*. The Schoolmaſter aſſerted that, from the experiments made in France, where theſe Machines had already taken up Animals into the atmoſphere, it was probable that men might aſcend with them hereafter. The Exciſeman not only declared this to be impoſſible, but treated all that had been related on the ſubject in the French papers as mere fiction. I joined in the diſcourſe, taking part with the Schoolmaſter. However, I did this with caution, as I had received an injunction not

to

to ſay any thing of the kind as from experience. I argued therefore from reaſon and probability; the Exciſeman from mere *dogma* and invincible obſtinacy. He ſaid, could any be ſilly enough to make ſuch an attempt, it would be more ridiculous than that of the Builders of the Tower of Babel. —The Schoolmaſter dropped the matter, as I found, from mere modeſty and a ſenſe of the impoſſibility of convincing his opponents. I continued to maintain the argument: and though I was partly ſupported in it by one who, at this time, entered the room, and who appeared to command ſome reſpect from the company, I was called "a Babel-Builder" for my pains. They did not take the ſame liberty with him; but it was evident that they found ſome difficulty in reſtraining themſelves within the bounds of Good Manners upon the occaſion.

Can

Can RIDICULE then be the *Teſt of* TRUTH?---Though a great Writer has delivered his opinion in the Affirmative; yet certainly it will ſupport the Triumph of Ignorance to maintain ſuch an aſſertion.

This diſpute being dropped, the Schoolmaſter, the perſon laſt mentioned, and myſelf, began to form a ſeparate party, and to enter into diſcourſe on various ſubjects. I now ſoon found that my laſt ſupporter was of a claſſical and poetic turn, and capable of affording me both Inſtruction and Entertainment. I was therefore very well pleaſed, when I heard that this gentleman held a little ſociety at the inn once every week; that this was the evening, and I was invited to be one of the party.

We accordingly withdrew, at the uſual hour, into a ſmall Parlour, where we were joined by four perſons more, who, with the School-

Schoolmaſter, made up the company. Six were the complement, except when in caſes, like the preſent, either of the gentlemen aſſumed his privilege of inviting a viſitor.

The Entertainment conſiſted of diſcuſſing various Topics, moral and amuſing, and generally concluded with a Song, a little piece of Muſic, or a Tale from one of the company.

About three hours were thus agreeably paſſed by a ſet of perſons, who, though ſober in their manners, were by no means attached to the very early time of retirement, uſual in country places. This circumſtance to me was ſo much the more pleaſing, as it was novel. And I readily entered into the Spirit of this little Society.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Variety of Entertainments. An Eaſtern Tale, told in a Weſtern Country. Memoirs of a Poet.

I HAVE generally obſerved, that in Societies, which conſiſt not of a multitude of members, the fewer Rules they are incumbered with, the better. Thus it was with this Company, where Good Manners, under the conduct of Good Senſe, formed the chief part of the regulation.

Political, moral, and dramatic ſubjects, formed the baſis of the evening's diſcourſe, which at laſt turned upon the paſſions of the human mind.

"An unbridled exerciſe of theſe, ſaid the Schoolmaſter, is certainly ſo far from *increaſing*, that (without being ſevere in our

our deciſion) we may determine they *deſtroy* our Happineſs."

Many inſtances of the kind were given, when at laſt the Inſtitutor of the Society, whoſe turn it was to conclude with a Song or a Tale, favoured the company with an Eaſtern Story, that was calculated to confirm the juſt opinion which the Schoolmaſter had delivered on the Subject. According to the uſual cuſtom of the Society, he began without ceremony in the following manner.

AT the court of Delhi, the Capital of the Mogol Empire, lived Hamet, the ſon of Aladin, whoſe treaſures were as the ſands of the ſea. The Angel of Health preſerved his body from pain, Innocence gave reſt to his Soul. His Youth was employed in active

active Virtue, and his Age was marked by the Spirit of Wiſdom and Devotion. But the lot of Mortality is common to all. After many years ſpent in the diſcharge of his duty to God and the Prophet, he died regretted by his Prince, and mourned by all who knew him. For his Soul, Paradiſe opened her wideſt gates, and the Angel of Death conveyed him to life immortal. His better part reſted in the ſeats of bliſs, and on earth his memory remained as a ſweet-ſmelling ſavour among the Faithful.

Hamet, his only ſon, the hope of his youth, was loud in lamentations for his father, and his tears watered the earth from the hour that the bluſhes of morning ſtreaked the Eaſt, until the faint gleaming twilight retired, and night enveloped in darkneſs the ſublunary habitations of men.

But

But it is decreed above, that ſorrow ſhall laſt only for a ſeaſon; and the moſt violent grief is generally of the ſhorteſt duration. When the days of mourning were over, Hamet aroſe, waſhed his face, and was comforted. Soon after he arrayed himſelf in the richeſt Robes, and admired their comelineſs. Gems were added to adorn them; he was delighted with their ſplendour, and received the balm of Conſolation.

He examined the Treaſures of Aladin, and found them to be far beyond his expectations. He rejoiced in the fulneſs of his heart, and exalted himſelf above thouſands: nor did his Soul find reſt, until he preſented himſelf at the Court of the Emperor of Indoſtan.

From his Father, Hamet had received the golden leſſons of Inſtruction; and for a while they had taken place in his mind.

Wiſdom had led him in the paths of Virtue; but the Paſſions were ſtrong in his boſom, which ſcattered the ſeeds before they arrived at perfection.

The ſon of Aladin became an Omrah; and being the favourite of his maſter, he was the proudeſt of thoſe who ſtood before the Throne of the Sultan. As Pride was in his heart, Contention followed; he was envied for his Greatneſs, and hated for the Haughtineſs of his Spirit. The memory of Aladin was dear to the Emperor. He ſaw that Hamet was hated in the Capital, and therefore he ſought to remove him from amidſt his enemies.

For this purpoſe the auguſt Monarch beſtowed on him the Government of the Royal City of Agra. Thither he haſtened in all the pomp of Oriental Splendour and Magnificence, and was received by the inhabit-

inhabitants as a gift from Heaven and the Prophet.

The ſun for a while roſe and ſet upon the tranquil government of Hamet, while his heart exulted in the numbers who proſtrated themſelves at his foot-ſtool. But his paſſions had not yet ſubſided; nor was Agra deſtined for his abiding-place. He ſought unbounded pleaſure, while he was reſolved to exerciſe unbounded authority.

Mirza, the ſon of Caſan, was a man renowned for his Wealth throughout the city; but yet more renowned for his Piety and Virtue. He reverenced God and his Prophet, and was faultleſs in the ceremonies of the law. In him the widow and the orphan found a friend; and when Hamet was perſuaded to make him his Vizier, he became their conſtant Protector. He beſtowed his treaſures in deeds of Charity,

and

and the Stranger never departed comfortleſs from his gates.

This good man imparted the wiſeſt counſels to his maſter, and for the little time that Hamet followed them, he ruled, beloved and happy, over a willing people.

Zemira, the daughter of the Vizier, was young and gentle; her voice was ſweeter than the ſound of the Lute, and her eyes were as the living Sapphires that glow in the firmament of Heaven. She was comely as the tall Cedar Tree, and her countenance was like that of the Daughters of Paradiſe.

The Governor of Agra, while he grew impatient of the Counſels of Mirza, became deſirous to behold his Daughter, the praiſe of whoſe charms he had heard repeated. He demanded to ſee her, and Mirza obeyed. When he ſaw her beauties, he became enamoured of her, yet he looked

on

on her only with the eyes of *Deſire*; for *Love* was a ſtranger to his boſom. Surrounding provinces had furniſhed his Seraglio with beauties; he only wanted to add Zemira to the number of thoſe who were enjoyed and diſregarded.

The laws of the Prophet had of late been little regarded by Hamet, and his prayers ſeldom aſcended to Heaven. The Vizier would not have thought his daughter honoured, if ſhe had become the Sultana of ſuch an Emperor, when he knew his want of Piety, and perceived his declining Virtue. But Hamet had reſolved to ſeize the charmer who had inſpired this paſſion.

The Vizier had deſigned to give Zemira in marriage to a Youth named Heli. But the Governor of Agra commanded, and the Maiden was brought into his preſence. He converſed with her in tender ſtrains; but

but when he ſpoke of Love, ſhe anſwered only with her Tears. He commanded that ſhe ſhould be removed to a private chamber, not aſhamed to violate the rules of hoſpitality in his own palace. He then ordered that Mirza ſhould be brought before him. The ſon of Caſan appeared, and being told that his Daughter would not liſten to the language of Love from Hamet, he anſwered boldly in the Integrity of his heart---" Zemira is pure and unſullied; I would not have her otherwiſe, for all the wealth this empire yields; nor can ſhe liſten to terms the moſt honourable, becauſe ſhe is already betrothed to her Equal."

The Governor, enraged at the freedom of Mirza's ſpeech, ordered him to be impriſoned. At the ſame time he determined that very night ſhould crown him with

with the full poſſeſſion of his ſtrong and ardent wiſhes.

The faint luſtre of the Star of Evening was dimmed by the ſuperior radiance of the riſing Moon, when Hamet went alone to the apartment where he expected to find Zemira. But he ſought her there in vain; nor could his Eunuchs ſatisfy him what was become of her. He ſtood for a while ſuſpended in all the rage of Paſſion. Then ſuddenly he turned his ſteps, and repaired to the priſon of Mirza. The doors were open, and he traced the various windings of the ſtrong manſion; but found all ſilent as the Grave.

The Child of Paſſion vowed a horrible revenge upon the guards, whom he had commanded ſtrictly to keep the priſoner; on the eunuchs who had ſuffered Zemira to eſcape, and threatened that Agra ſhould mourn

mourn in blood for theſe his diſappointments. Departing in a rage, he perceived a young man haſtily following him, who exclaimed---" Stay, and hear me, Hamet, the ſon of Aladin, thou Image of Pride and Paſſion, rather than of the benign Deity who created thee. Unworthy Repreſentative of the Emperor of Indoſtan, whom ſeekeſt thou?---Zemira?---She is reſcued, and I contributed to her deliverance.----- Mirza?---He is in ſafety, and I have alſo uſed my efforts to preſerve *him* from thy blind fury."

Having thus ſaid, he went haſtily forward, and was quickly followed by Hamet; whoſe ſabre was in his hand, and whoſe eyes glowed with ſavage fierceneſs.

The Governor, in chaſing the unknown, paſſed ſwiftly through the city gates; even as the falcon follows the dove, ſo did he

preſs upon the Youth, who now appeared cloſe to him; then ſuddenly eluded his purſuit, drawing him on for many a mile, until at length he turned back upon him; when Hamet attacked him with his ſabre. He eaſily avoided the repeated ſtrokes, which were intended to be fatal. Then with a voice like thunder he exclaimed: "Son of Mortality! is yet the meaſure of thy wickedneſs filled up? Thou mayeſt *rage* henceforward, but to *command* is thine no more. Look around thee, and then conjecture, if thou canſt, from what thou perceiveſt, the texture of thy future Fortunes. A dreadful judgement awaits thee; but if Heaven ſo wills, thou mayeſt again be admitted into Society, when thou haſt learned the leſſons of Humanity."

Thus ſaying he withdrew, fleet as the paſſing wind, and Hamet, to his aſtoniſhment,

ment, now perceived himſelf to be alone, in the midſt of a frightful Deſert.

Wandering from hence, the Sun had ſet and ariſen again, when, faint with hunger and fatigue, he arrived in a pleaſant Valley, adorned with Palms and other trees, with whoſe fruit he refreſhed himſelf, ſlaking his thirſt at the clear cryſtal ſtream that deſcended from the ſurrounding hills. When the ſhades of Night again curtained over his head, he now repoſed his weary limbs on the graſſy carpet, under the canopy of the azure Sky, which had ſo often been ſtretched beneath gilded roofs on the richeſt carpets of the gorgeous Eaſt.

Buſy Fancy ſtill, in dreams, recalled the ſcenes that had ſo lately employed his attention, and thoſe diſpoſitions which had occaſioned his preſent misfortune.

His

His Spirit was thus troubled in the viſions of the Night, when Zemira and her Father then ſeemed to ſtand before him, as mocking his rage, and eluding his cloſeſt purſuit.

Awaking, he ſnatched his ſabre, and ſtill imagining he ſaw the fleeting forms, purſued them with the utmoſt eagerneſs, ere yet the grey dawn appeared upon the miſty mountains tops: and before the ſun roſe above the horizon, having paſſed the utmoſt limits of the pleaſant Valley, he was involved in the windings of a mazy Wood; where he was preſently convinced of the illuſion.

While he pauſed in a painful ſuſpence, wiſhing to meaſure back his ſteps, the earth trembled, and he heard a Voice uttering theſe words, which added to the terrors of his mind.

"Son of the Duſt! the wretched Slave of Paſſion, how long wilt thou fight againſt Heaven? Doſt thou wiſh to add yet more to the roll which the Angel of Accuſation will preſent at the foot-ſtool of Mahomet. Receive what yet remains of thy reward. Go! live with the beaſts of the foreſt! Thou art yet unfit for the Society of Mankind."

A long peal of thunder ſucceeded, and the aſtoniſhed Hamet, as impelled by a Superior Power, fled into the thickeſt part of the Wood, ſtraying through paths unknown, terrified by the howlings of voracious beaſts, and threatened by the War of Elements.

When Hunger admoniſhed him to ſatisfy the calls of nature, the wild berries were his food; and the man who, diſobeying the precepts of the Prophet, had often

quaffed

quaffed the forbidden nectareous Juice of the Grape, was now glad of the moſt ſcanty portion of contaminated waters, to allay the burning Thirſt which preyed upon his entrails.

The ſhaggy inhabitants of the wilderneſs were become his companions; the croaking raven often interrupted him in his meditations, and the night owl ſang him to reſt.

Yet ſometimes he would ſay to himſelf, "Could I be ſeen by thoſe to whom ſo lately I was known, ſurely they would rejoice to bring me back to the Palace in Agra."

But coming by chance to the banks of a ſtream, with whoſe waters he longed to quench his thirſt, when he viewed his own form in the water, he was ſtruck with horror at the ſight, ſtarting back as one who

ſuddenly

ſuddenly views a Serpent in his way, while he is traverſing the ſpicy groves of Serendib. For his countenance was become gloomy and ſqualid, his features were diſtorted, and ſhaggy hairs were ſpread over his viſage; ſo that he reſembled thoſe ſavages whoſe companion he was become, rather than Man, the Lord of the Creation.

He now began to reflect on his own evil ways, and the warnings which he had received in vain. He had indeed ſlighted *them*, but he could not ſlight the Feelings of his Conſcience, nor be inſenſible to the judgment under which he ſuffered.

" I am abandoned then (ſaid he)---the Eternal has blotted out his image ſtamped upon me at my birth! Heaven diſclaims me, I am judged unworthy to dwell with men, and finally driven from Society."

The

The day aroſe upon the ſorrows of Hamet, and the night cloſed upon his complainings. The ſun had three times enlightened the earth, when the wretched wanderer ſat down beneath a tamariſk, deſpairing of ever again being reſtored to partake of the bleſſings of human nature, ſtill bewailing, in the moſt piteous manner, the ſituation to which he was reduced, and ſhedding tears of remorſe and repentance.

While he ſat thus, carving on the rind of the tree ſome ſentences he remembered in the Koran, he heard a female voice uttering loud groans at a diſtance. Rouſing at this, and guided by the ſound, he haſtened to the other ſide of a thicket from whence it proceeded, with the ſpeed of the young hart that bounds along the hills of Cachemire.

There

There he found a lovely Female, who ſeemed ready to reſign her Spirit into the arms of Death. Her eyes were juſt cloſing, her countenance was pale, and blood iſſued from various parts of her fair body. Touched with compaſſion, Hamet ran to a neighbouring fountain, and took of the water, to ſprinkle over her face and breaſt. He tore his garments to bind up her wounds, and felt the moſt pleaſing ſenſation when returning life purpled over her beauteous cheeks, and her blue eyes opening, were turned with gratitude, mixt with fear, upon her unknown deliverer.

When ſhe was ſufficiently revived, and had drank of the clear ſtream, ſhe recovered ſpirit enough to tell Hamet briefly the ſtory of her misfortune.

It appeared that ſhe was the daughter of a rich citizen of Agra, who had left her

Father's houſe, and thrown herſelf into the arms of a pretended Lover, and he had baſely endeavoured to deceive her.

" But Heaven (ſaid ſhe) has puniſhed my raſhneſs. The young man, who was a Guebre, a worſhipper of Fire, was a baſe impoſtor. He had inticed me to take away a great part of my Parent's treaſure, of which, as ſoon as I entered this wood, he by force deprived me. Then ruſhing on me, as the lion ruſhed on the tender fawn, he offered violence to my chaſtity. But the Prophet endued my weak frame with ſtrength to prevent his brutal attempt. When he ſaw my Reſolution, he drew his dagger and gave me theſe wounds. He had doubtleſs put a period to my exiſtence; but that the awful thunders rolled loudly above, and the red lightnings flaſhed dreadful from the opening ſkies. He feared the

power

power of Fire (his God) and fled with precipitation, leaving me in the deplorable condition wherein you found me; when ſurely the Angel of the Higheſt ſent you hither for my preſervation."

Hamet heard theſe words with pleaſure; for true paſſion had now firſt touched his heart: yet when he remembered his form which he had beheld in the ſtream, conceiving it ſtill the ſame, he doubted how it could inſpire confidence in any one.

In the mean while, Selinda, the Fair, whom he had delivered, looked upon him with inexpreſſible ſweetneſs, while he ſpoke the words of comfort to her ſoul.

"From what I have already ſuffered, and what I might have ſuffered, (ſaid ſhe) I ought to be full of timidity; but ſurely all Men are not equally deceitful; all are not like the infamous Guebre.

As ſhe ſpoke, her cheek was tinged with a lovely bluſh, like that which paints the bright morning ſkies, when the early breeze firſt fans the groves of ſpices, and the ſhadows of darkneſs diſappear. Her glowing beauties increaſed the flame already kindled in the breaſt of Hamet. Deſerted, helpleſs as ſhe was, it would now have been eaſy for him to offer that violence to Selinda, which ſhe had ſo lately eſcaped; but love admitted of no ſuch baſe ideas. Hamet *loved*; and by that beſt of paſſions proclaimed that he deſerved the name of man.

Forgetful of his own ſituation, Selinda now engroſſed all his attention. He did every thing to provide for the ſafety, and, as much as poſſible, for the felicity of the Miſtreſs of his Heart. He ſought out for her the moſt aſpiring ſhade: He was ready to forego for her his ſcanty meal. Waking

he

he attended to the wants he read in her eyes, and often watched her nightly ſlumbers.

The Prophet ſaw with an approving ſmile this diſpoſition in Hamet. He had learned to be a lover and a friend; but there was yet another trial in ſtore for the Son of Aladin.

As he was one day retired beneath the ſhadow of a lofty tree, taking a ſhort repoſe, he heard a voice crying, "Ariſe, Hamet, and ſatisfy the wiſhes of thy Heart; for at this hour is the man who dared to deſpiſe thee, with thoſe who are moſt dear to him, delivered into thy hands."

When he awaked at the call, he found himſelf once more in the Valley of Palms, and near at hand a party headed by his chief Eunuch, with the Vizier Mirza and his daughter Zemira, Priſoners, whom they preſented to him for his diſpoſal.

A mo-

A momentary flaſh of Anger diſcompoſed him; but preſently having collected his Powers, and called Reaſon to his Aid, he ordered the captives to be unbound, while he ſpoke in the following manner.

"You who have been ſo haſty in putting bonds upon perſons worthier than yourſelves, have been guilty of a wilful crime againſt your own judgment, and attempted groſly to flatter me in my faults. I have been guilty of ſhameful Errors: but I here diſclaim all ſuch in future. I wiſh not for Glory, but for Peace; I deſire not Power, but Tranquility.---Mirza! be free, and rule in Agra, until the Emperor ſhall appoint a fit perſon for my ſucceſſor.---Injured Zemira! forgive my intended violence to you, and my tyrranous behaviour towards your Father. Live happy with the youth of your choice. Hamet will never entertain

the

the moſt diſtant thought of diſturbing your Felicity."

The Vizier and his fair daughter thanked the Prophet for this change in Hamet. They bowed before him with gratitude, and returned towards Agra, while he went in ſearch of his Selinda, his Love for whom had beſt taught him the leſſons of Humanity.

He had ſcarcely quitted the Valley of Palms, when he met his Fair-One, who, Heaven-directed, had come in ſearch of him. "Hamet, (cried ſhe) I trembled, leſt I had been for ever deprived of thy company, and been left a wanderer in the wild woods alone. But Providence has ordered it otherwiſe. As I ſtrayed in ſearch of thee, I ſaw the body of a man lying dead at the foot of a tree. When I approached, I found it was the falſe Guebre.

He

He adored the fire, and was ſlain by fire from above. He fell by the lightning of Heaven. I have recovered the Treaſure of which he plundered me, and lo! I lay it at thy feet."

The ſon of Aladin told her with ſincerity how little he valued any Treaſure but her Love. "To thy Father (ſaid he) will I reſtore his property. We will both kneel at his feet, and I doubt not but he will forgive the indiſcretion of his Daughter, by which ſhe has ſuffered ſo much, and beſtow her hand on Hamet, who will endeavour to make himſelf worthy of Selinda."

At this inſtant, turning towards a clear fountain, wherein each object was reflected, it was with ſurpriſe and pleaſure that he obſerved his once more altered Form, which was more comely than ever. He perceived that his Eyes beamed with unuſual

uſual luſtre, his Countenance was bright, and his whole perſon, far from reſembling that of a Savage, was endowed with manly Beauty.

While he was reflecting with Gratitude on the change, the big Thunder rolled aweful, yet not terrible, through the clear and ſerene ſky. The ſon of Aladin bowed and adored, as Selinda ſtood, full of female timidity, by his ſide.

Juſt then the Youth, from whom he had before heard denunciations of vengeance, appeared before them; not in the ſemblance of a mortal, but as one of the inhabitants of the cœleſtial regions. His Eyes ſhone like Carbuncles, his Breath exhaled a rich Perfume, his Shoulders were adorned with a gorgeous Plumage, and the ſplendour of his Countenance was ſuch as Mortal could ſcarcely behold.

" Son

"Son of Mortality (ſaid he) thy Trial is for this time fulfilled, and thy Puniſhment is at an end, as thy crimes are expiated, and thou art no more the Slave of Paſſion that thou waſt. Reflect but what felicity aroſe from the indulgence of thy inordinate Deſires. What didſt thou promiſe thyſelf, hadſt thou ſucceeded in following thy evil inclinations? The Hatred of a whole People, Diſgrace, an untimely Death, and the high Diſpleaſure of the Prophet, had been the conſequences of a ſhort-lived triumph. Remember well that thou haſt graſped at Power; thou haſt gloried in Riches; thou haſt dedicated thy Hours to Pleaſure. Aſk thy own Heart, whether theſe have brought Peace to thy Mind. But mark now, and acknowledge the juſt reward of Heaven. After having been toſſed upon the Sea of Paſſion, thou haſt now a taſte

taſte of happineſs, when thou haſt begun to contribute to the Happineſs of *others*, as thou waſt moſt wretched when it was thy aim to build thy ſatisfaction upon their Miſery. Well didſt thou determine to reject a ſtate which is conſtantly preſenting temptations to the ſons of men. Go then, and learn wiſdom from the leſſons which Heaven has deigned to teach thee. The Prophet requires not thou ſhouldſt attempt to extinguiſh thy Paſſions, but that thou ſhouldſt keep them in ſubjection. Hadſt thou done this at firſt, thou hadſt avoided many ſorrows. But it is not too late to be wiſe. Thou mayeſt now return to Agra, thou mayeſt go to the Court of Delhi; if thou art not inſenſible of inſtruction, thou wilt be ſafe from the ſnares of temptation while thou walkeſt along the humble Vale of Life. Farewell: be happy: fear God:

obey

obey the laws, and remember that all thy Happineſs depends on the Government of thy paſſions."

The heavenly meſſenger ſaid, and withdrew to the cœleſtial abodes. Hamet and Selinda purſued their way to Agra, where the lover received Selinda from the hands of her father, and ſought no other gift beſides.

He then proceeded to the Court of Delhi, and caſting himſelf at the feet of his Royal Maſter, after having acknowledged that he was unfit and unwilling to govern in Agra, moſt unfeignedly beſought the Emperor to prefer Mirza to that appointment. His requeſt was granted, whilſt all the Courtiers ſtood in ſilent admiration, ſurpriſed that the ſon of Aladin ſhould be willing to renounce riches and power, which they deemed the higheſt inſtance of Self-Denial.

Hamet

Hamet at firſt deſigned to remove with Selinda to woods and wilds, far from the haunts of Men; but the Fair-One, now become the Wife of his boſom, diſſuaded him. "Hamet, (ſaid ſhe) with a voice more enchanting than the ſweeteſt ſounds of the lute, what is that thou art about to do? Why wouldſt thou fly from Humankind? From the hour that Heaven firſt breathed the breath of Life into thee, thou haſt acknowledged thyſelf to have ſuffered no afflictions but thoſe which were diſpenſed for thy good, by the chaſtiſing hand of Him who reigns above, and who requires not of thee that thou ſhouldſt ſerve him in ſolitude. When lately driven into the deſert, full of youthful ardour, how did Hamet regret the want of thoſe ſweets which are to be found in ſocial converſe. Heaven has been pleaſed once more to reſtore

reſtore him to the communion of men; ſhould he not accept therefore of the bleſſing? I adviſe not that thou ſhouldſt mingle in the buſy throng at Delhi or at Agra. In ſome diſtant province may we dwell, where, without imitating the Hermit or Derviſe, thou mayeſt join in ſociety with choſen friends, when thy boſom diſtends with ſenſations of benevolence or the deſire of innocent pleaſure, or retire at will, when thou wouldſt converſe with thy own Heart, or lift thy Mind to Heaven. Let the Lord of my Affections pardon me that I have thus preſumed to counſel him; but let him conſider well within himſelf before he determines, whether the words of Folly have this hour eſcaped from the lips of his Selinda."

Hamet after a pauſe embraced cloſely the partner of his heart and of his bed, the only woman with whom he meant to ſhare them,

and

and confeſſed that ſhe had ſpoken the dictates of Wiſdom.

He liſtened to her voice, and, withdrawing from Delhi, with Selinda traverſed the Decan, until he found a ſpot ſuitable to his purpoſe. He pitched on a fruitful valley, ſurrounded by gently riſing hills, on the declivity of one of which was ſituate a populous village; from another fell a body of waters forming a natural caſcade, which, deſcending, rolled in a murmuring ſtream through the delightful valley.

Here Hamet purchaſed herds and flocks; here he built himſelf a commodious dwelling, and being bleſſed with affluence, though not loaded with cumbrous wealth, he continued to taſte all the felicity that humankind can expect to enjoy in this ſublunary ſtate. At ſome times he reſorted to the village and participated in harmleſs pleaſures;

ſures; at others he invited ſuch as he eſteemed to paſs a few days at his manſion.--Sometimes he entertained himſelf with viewing the ſcenes of ſimple Nature, and commenting upon the Works of the Creation; at others he would ſhut himſelf up in retirement, converſing with his own thoughts or dedicating the hours to Selinda and conjugal love, but never forgot to ſet apart a portion of his time for devotion.

His faithful conſort brought him a ſon, whom he called Irad, who was inſtructed in the leſſons of the Prophet, early trained in the paths of inſtruction, and rendered wiſe by the communication of his father's experience.

Thus lived Hamet and Selinda, happy in themſelves, hoſpitable to the ſtranger, benevolent to all, until, at a good old age, the Angel of Death removed them both together

together to the gardens of Paradiſe. Their ſon Irad being rich in the knowledge of his father, walked in the paths of Virtue and Wiſdom, and avoided evil by keeping his paſſions within due bounds.---He married, and had a numerous progeny.---When he was removed to a better ſtate, the tears of genuine Sorrow ſtreamed over his Aſhes; and his Family were honoured in the Decan for many generations.

WITH this Oriental tale, and a parting glaſs, our evening's entertainment concluded and we ſeparated to retire to reſt, after the Schoolmaſter had given me an invitation to come and ſee him the next day at his own houſe, (which I could not but decline) and whiſpered me that the gentleman who ſpoke laſt was a Poet, and had paſſed through a

ſeries of adventures worth relating, with ſome of which he would have made me acquainted, had I been ſo ſituate as to accept his invitation.

Being provided with a good chamber and proper accommodations, as it was an inn of ſome repute, I went to bed and enjoyed undiſturbed repoſe until near five the next morning. Being then awakened, as I had deſired, I aroſe, breakfaſted, and having ſatisfied the landlord, repaired to the place of appointment, when I found Amiel ready to reaſſume the aerial journey.

When I had taken my ſeat, I began to communicate what ſort of entertainment I had met with at the inn. He told me it was for that purpoſe he directed me thither. Having deſcribed the perſons preſent at the Society above mentioned, I could not help expreſſing my regret that I had not time to become

become better acquainted with ſome of the Characters; and above all, that I was obliged to decline the ſatisfaction of hearing ſome of the anecdotes of the Poet, which the Schoolmaſter could ſo readily have communicated.

As we proceeded on the Weſtern road, ſaid Amiel, "Since you have been ſo punctual in keeping your appointment, I will gratify your curioſity, in ſome meaſure, in this particular.

"Mr. Charwell, as you heard the company call him, is not only a Poet, but has written many things in Proſe as well as Verſe ſince the time that he commenced Author. He is really a man of genius and underſtanding.

"Being born in the decline of his Parents circumſtances, though they were once wealthy, his School Education was rather

rather confined. His turn to learning, and in particular his predilection for the Muſes, was always ſufficiently apparent.

" Neither his father nor his mother lived to ſee him grow up to that perfection which they had expected. He was not thirteen years of age when, having loſt both his parents, Billy found himſelf under the care of an old maiden Aunt. This Lady having taken upon her to adminiſter to his Father's effects, declared ſhe had not found more than would pay their debts; but added, ſhe ſhould not let her Nephew ſtarve, and therefore, though ſhe could ill afford it, ſhe would do what was in her power for him.

" Thus ſhe pretended; though, in truth, the balance of account, in regard to the property of the deceaſed, was ſufficient to have made a decent proviſion for the Child; and as for herſelf, ſhe was in affluent circumſtances.

cumſtances. Of this many who knew her were very ſenſible; though a ſort of good-manners, partly ariſing from diſtant views of intereſt, kept people ſilent; ſince, though parſimonious, ſhe was not without her Dependants.

" Mrs. Charwell was not of a temper to favour Billy's increaſe in improvements. As he had already learned to read, and made ſome progreſs in Writing and Accounts, beſides having acquired a little Latin, ſhe was of opinion that there was no occaſion for his proceeding much farther. As this was her opinion, ſhe acted accordingly. He was therefore taken from ſchool, and acquainted that he muſt not now think of any of the learned profeſſions, for one of which it was underſtood that his father had deſigned him. On the contrary, he was deſtined for a mechanical Buſineſs, and his

Relation

Relation obſerved it would be beſt if a hard-working Trade could be got for him. She ſaid ſuch buſineſſes were moſt conducive to Health, beſides giving young lads a habit of Induſtry.

" Billy heard all this, and as he had been brought up in leſſons of Obedience, did not pretend to ſay any thing upon the ſubject. At Fourteen, therefore, he was bound apprentice to a Carpenter in the City of Briſtol, whither we are going.

" The Youth was willing to endeavour to learn his trade, and give ſatisfaction to his maſter; but however hard he was diſpoſed to work with his Hands, his Head was not attentive. Delighting in books, with which he ſolaced and improved himſelf in an evening, what he read or learned then was apt to employ his mind on the ſucceeding day. This, together with ſome

other

other real and ſuppoſed imperfections, procured him ſevere uſage. Yet he ſerved his time duly; but having ſo far fulfilled his duty, was little inclined afterwards to follow his laborious occupation."

Whilſt Amiel was going on with his recital I perceived the clouds, which had long threatened a ſtorm, to be full fraught with electric Fire. They were moving above, and gathering around us. At this I was alarmed; my Companion perceived it, and addreſſed a few words to me upon the occaſion.--"You are diſturbed, Mortal; you fear where there is no cauſe; Thunder and Lightning are Meteors which are neceſſary; like winds they have their commiſſion; but whatever be the power of theſe to harm men, the *Guilty* only ought to tremble. Were it even your fate to die by fire æthereal, you could perhaps ſcarcely wiſh an

eaſier tranſition from this ſublunary ſtate. However, this is not your deſtiny. But I will comply with your Weakneſs, and deliver you from your groundleſs Anxiety."

So ſaying, he elevated our Machine far above the cloudy curtain. Riſing ſwiftly into the atmoſphere, the thunders rolled more diſtant, while the blue lightnings flaſhed far beneath us. We continued in this elevated ſituation until the ſtorm ceaſed. Then we deſcended in clear ſunſhine, and my Companion proceeded in his relation.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

The Adventures of the Poet concluded. Other Characters. The aerial Travellers arrive at Briſtol. Amiel finally takes Leave of the Author.

"THIS diſpoſition in young Charwell (continued Amiel) proved very diſagreeable to his aunt, who did not fail to reproach him for it. He tried to bend his inclinations to oblige her, and to do what ſhe laboured to perſuade him would be for his own intereſt. But his mind had taken ſo different a turn, that there was no chance of his ſucceeding in his buſineſs.

"Being at length fully ſenſible of this, conſidering how little he had reaſon to expect farther from his Relation, he reſolved to uſe ſome means of getting into another

line. He ſought for a ſituation, where, if not immediately in a learned profeſſion, he might at leaſt earn his ſubſiſtance by the labours of his Head. There were not wanting thoſe who approved of his deciſion. As people are eaſily perſuaded to what they have a mind to do, ſo it was not long before the Youth liſtened to a ſuggeſtion of leaving Briſtol, and ſetting out for the Capital. London is a place where moſt people that are natives of the country think to ſucceed. Some ſuppoſe that Fortune will begin to ſmile on them almoſt as ſoon as they enter the Metropolis. If the perſon I am deſcribing was not one of theſe, yet he was too ſanguine in his expectations. Conſequently he met with diſappointments.

" He had indeed a recommendation to a tradeſman in London, who had formerly known his Father, and profeſſed ſome friendſhip

friendſhip for him, in return for favours received.

" Charwell underſtood that he ſhould receive either pecuniary aſſiſtance, or at leaſt that this friend would ſupport him, until he could fall on ſome mode of proviſion. The perſon, whoſe name was D . . . . ., received him with great civility; but did not ſeem diſpoſed to ſerve him in the mode he wiſhed. The young man having *written* as well as read for ſome years paſt, propoſed publiſhing certain things of his compoſing, and to borrow money of D . . . . ., to be repaid out of the ſale of the Work.---- D . . . . ., not fond of ſuch uncertainties, propoſed a Subſcription. This was adopted, but not ſucceeding, he ſoon grew weary of ſupporting young Charwell, and gave ſufficient hints of it. The other was therefore much embarraſſed. Not knowing what

other

other hope remained, he aſked advice with a real willingneſs to receive it.

" D . . . . .'s counſel was, as his young friend was a tolerable adept in writing and arithmetic, that he ſhould endeavour to get the place of a Clerk in ſome merchant or tradeſman's Compting-Houſe. This (he ſaid) might at leaſt prove the means of a temporary ſubſiſtance, until ſomething more to his mind might offer.

" Young Charwell cloſing with this propoſal, a ſuitable place was ſought out for him. Such a one was found, and it proved indeed a temporary relief to his neceſſities, delivering him from that dependance which is always irkſome to generous ſouls. But ſtill his mind ran on other matters; and though the occupation of a Clerk was more agreeable than the work of a Carpenter, yet having once habituated himſelf to the

cacoethes

cacoethes ſcribendi, he found it no eaſy matter, nor indeed was he diſpoſed, in this caſe, to alter his inclinations.

" At his leiſure hours he planned and finiſhed ſome Poems, from which he had great expectations. He got ſome money advanced, and publiſhed theſe on his own account. They procured him ſome credit, but very little profit. However, having once launched into the *mare criticum*, he reſolved to proceed, in ſpite of threatening tempeſts or contrary currents.

It was not long before he left his place, and became an Author on the Town, in which capacity his ſucceſs was various, as is generally the caſe with perſons adopting that profeſſion.

" Parnaſſus, however, was at firſt but a barren ſoil to him ; for what is a Poet without a Name ? Charwell was obſcure, and

therefore

therefore his verſes, though they had merit, were looked upon as obſcure likewiſe. He perceived this, it is true; but as a Mother doats on her favourite Infant, ſo doated the Poet on his Muſe, though ſhe was frequently found froward, and brought her parent into embarraſſments.

" A friend of his obſerved this circumſtance, and adviſed him to turn his thoughts to another ſort of writing. He recommended Politics; and he gave ſuch cogent reaſons, as cauſed Charwell to adopt his counſel. Some remarkable incidents were the conſequence of his embarking in this line, which is ſeldom favourable to thoſe who have not the advantage of patronage.

" He was early introduced to an Earl, who promiſed to countenance and ſupport him. Pleaſed with the firſt efforts of the young man, and hoping more from him,

he

he ſcrupled not to make him an offer of becoming his Secretary. Charwell was not in circumſtances to refuſe this. Yet he entered on the office untowardly, which predicted no long continuance in it. Nor was it deſtined for him to hold it long. His patron died, and he was left to provide for himſelf---with no money, but ſome character, and a ſmall ſhare of experience.

"At this time there was a change in the Miniſtry; Charwell was adviſed to avail himſelf of it. He did ſo; and with the leſs reluctance, as he had never ſerved thoſe who before employed him with a hearty good-will. He had however, by this time, learned the diſtinction between Whigs and Tories, and knew how to make a profitable uſe of it. Yet this is a diſtinction which it would be for the good of the country to bury in oblivion.

"A

" A noble Duke now became his Patron; and the Youth promiſed himſelf great things from this Peer's friendſhip. It appeared that he had reaſon ſo to do; for his Grace *ſeemed* to be the plaineſt and moſt ſincere of mankind. He *ſeemed*, but he was not ſo. When he ſpoke, honey diſtilled from his lips; but he was apt to *forget* what he had ſaid, and conſequently none who knew him would rely on his promiſes.

" But Charwell did *not* know him, and was eaſily duped by his outward appearance. When a Nobleman condeſcends to flatter his inferior in rank, the latter is always exalted in his own opinion. The matter of deſert is then out of queſtion; becauſe the man is eaſily perſuaded into what he wiſhes and believes to be true. Such was the caſe with Charwell.

" But

"But this young man was ill calculated to make ſuch a return as is generally expected. He was too ſincere, and, in ſome meaſure, might be called too proud to flatter. Neither was he one who ſet off his own good qualities to the beſt advantage. He had ſome excellences, which lay hid like metal in the ore; being too modeſt to exhibit them in their extent. The conſequence was, that though moſt people found ſomething worth regarding in him, yet many were at a loſs to tell what it was that engaged their eſteem.

"The Duke of ..... had made him ſome preſents, and talked of providing for him. But Charwell did not keep pace with his Grace's wiſhes, and thoſe of the Party. It was expected that he ſhould write much for them. It was ſuppoſed that he would be always ready to take his pen in hand, and

ſupport

ſupport any controverted meaſure. This they underſtood to be the tacit condition of ſupport. But in theſe things he was quite backward. And, beſides, he never could, nor would write in favour of any thing that he did not moſt heartily approve. On a particular occaſion he even went ſo far as to tell one of the party ſo. The gentleman told it to Lord B....., Lord B..... told it to the Earl of D....., and the Earl communicated it to his Patron, the Duke.

" His Grace ſhook his head, and ſaid that way of proceeding would not do. All that were about him ſhook their heads, and ſaid the ſame. A gentle remonſtrance was made to Charwell, which he thought proper to make as if he underſtood not. For he now found it neceſſary to diſſemble. Yet he was angry with himſelf even for this.

this. 'It is thus (ſaid he) that I begin already to learn the vices of a Court; though I have its influence but at ſecond-hand.'

"He grew more and more diſguſted with his ſtate of dependance. But the Duke had promiſed him a place, and at one time even ſpecified what Poſt he meant for him. He therefore thought fit to remind his Grace; but his Grace had *forgot* it. Nevertheleſs, he ſaid he would do *ſomething* for him;---yet he did not mean it. When Charwell called to pay his reſpects, the Nobleman often was not at home; yet he *was* at home, and had been ſeen at the window the next minute. The young man was backward in taking theſe hints. He was therefore at laſt given plainly to underſtand, that his viſits at the Duke's would be diſpenſed with. He waited on Lord B....., and begged to know the reaſon

of

of it. He went to the Earl of D.....'s; his Lordſhip was not at home; he went thither repeatedly, with the like ſucceſs. At length he found a note left there, the purport of which was to inform him, That neither his Grace nor his friends were ſatisfied with his conduct, on which they ſhould make no comment, but leave it to his own ſenſe to conſider. This ſhort epiſtle concluded with a fair diſmiſſion of his hopes, ſo as to put an end at once to his ſuſpence.

" An acquaintance, to whom he communicated all this, adviſed him immediately to enliſt under the banners of the oppoſite party. But Charwell diſdained to do ſo. On the contrary, he reſolved never to meddle in that line again. He found he had many requiſites for a *poetical*, but wanted the principal ones for a *political* writer.

" He-

" He returned therefore to his verſifica-tion. When that ſometimes failed of ſucceſs, he wrote or compiled in proſe. While he thus picked up a ſcanty ſubſiſtance, he was adviſed to write for the ſtage. He compoſed a dramatic piece, which really had ſome merit. He was recommended, but in an oblique manner, to the Manager of one of the Theatres. The Manager received him civilly, took his piece, and laid it on the ſhelf. He dallied with the Poet for two whole ſeaſons, and at laſt returned it without reading. He ſaid there were ſome good things in the Play; but it wanted correction. He added likewiſe, that he had ſo many pieces that came before it in time, that he really knew not how or when he could pretend to bring it on. The truth was, the Manager had friends of his own, and ſome of the noble Duke's already mentioned,

tioned, to oblige. Thus ended the dramatic hopes of Charwell. He was not of a diſpoſition to make a ſecond attempt of that nature.

" For want of patronage, he long lived in a ſtate but little removed from abſolute poverty. At length the worthy Lord Belmont took notice of ſome of his pieces at his bookſeller's, ſent for him, and gave him encouragement. He was permitted to dedicate a volume to his Lordſhip; and a handſome ſubſcription was raiſed for his Poems. From that time his affairs began to take a turn for the better. His works have ever ſince ſold at more than treble the price he ever had before. They ſometimes meet with better ſucceſs than ſome Critics would think they deſerve; but this it is to acquire a Patron, and to gain a Name.

" The

" The noble Lord is ſince dead; but he has not forgot Charwell, he left him an annuity for life. On this, and what he gains by Writing, the Poet now ſubſiſts comfortably in a ſingle ſtate; but he will marry, and live in all the enjoyment of conjugal Felicity.

" He has a little houſe at Reading, where he generally reſides during the Summer ſeaſon. He has a ſmall circle of Friends, with whom he enjoys the pleaſure of Society. Some of theſe formed the Aſſembly, to which you were invited; and the Schoolmaſter is one of the principal.

" He is a worthy Character, the ſon of a Clergyman who lived and died poor, becauſe he ſcorned to cringe to the Great for preferment. He is married, and has a numerous offspring, whom he maintains comfortably on the profits accruing from his

his ſchool. The inhabitants around are forward enough in ſending their children to one who takes equal care of their Learning and their Morals.

" The reſt of the little Society conſiſted of the Schoolmaſter's couſin, an Apothecary of character and repute; and three neighbouring Tradeſmen. You perceived they were men of ſenſe. I will add, that they are men of virtue."----

The Balloon proceeded on the Weſtern Road, until we arrived within ſight of the City of Briſtol, when Amiel, ſtopping the Machine, thus addreſſed me :---

" Mortal, you are now arrived at the extent of your aerial journey, in the courſe of which you have been aſſiſted by a ſupernatural power. What remains now is, that you are to live in this City, or elſewhere diſtant from London, until the period which

I have

I have mentioned arrives. You muſt then reſort to the Capital, where, for the firſt time, you will ſee your Lucia, to whom, in the end, you will be united. With regard to the experience you have had relative to Aeroſtatic Machines, it will be uſeful to you hereafter. But that cannot be until after the Foreigner has made his ſecond aſcenſion, and after you are united to your miſtreſs. In the mean time, live in expectation of a happineſs which is aſſigned you; becauſe you have not been afraid of toil or danger.

" As to the Balloon, you muſt be content to deſcend from it, and for the laſt time. You will, hereafter, make one upon a new conſtruction, with which you will aſcend in various kingdoms. Farewel! and if mortals have any gratitude, you will ſometimes think of Amiel."

While he ſpoke thus, the Machine having deſcended, he ſet me down, and reaſcended without it. Nevertheleſs the vehicle made its way ſwiftly towards the upper regions. There preſently it burſt with a loud exploſion at the touch of Amiel, who diſappeared among the light Clouds in the thinner Atmoſphere.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Adventures at Briſtol. The AUTHOR *meets with a Friend. Adventures of a Man of the World.*

BEING thus at once deprived both of my aerial Guide and my Aeroſtatic Machine, I was now left entirely to myſelf. I was like Telemachus without his Mentor. Indeed, I had been ſo much uſed to Amiel, that I almoſt conſidered him as a Mortal, and was continually looking for him. Thus Cuſtom can alter the manners and conceptions of men.

I walked penſively into Briſtol, and put up at a well-known inn there, until I could procure a lodging in the City. Within a day or two I got one at a Widow's houſe,

in

in whoſe character there were ſome *Traits* that appeared rather extraordinary.

Though turned of Fifty, and owning to Forty, ſhe aſſumed the airs of a girl of fifteen. She ſang horribly, yet ſhe *would* ſing. She had never danced otherwiſe than aukwardly, yet ſhe *would* dance; and was altogether a compound of Affectation.

She doated on Flattery, and when none elſe offered this incenſe to her Vanity, ſhe would not fail to flatter *herſelf*. Every man that took the leaſt notice of her (which many did on account of her Oddities) was ſet down at leaſt for an Admirer. If one of the male ſex ſaid a civil thing to her, he was ſet down as a deſperate Lover; eſpecially if he was a perſon of fortune or conſideration. If you believed her, you muſt conceive her to be acquainted, directly or indirectly, with every one of conſequence,

not

not only in Briſtol, but in all the kingdom beſides.

As a ſingle man, I choſe to board with her. The Civility due to Women, which I paid her, occaſioned her to ſet me down for an humble Servant. I was ſoon in poſſeſſion of this woman's foibles: I ſaw it was vain to attempt to cure her;---and, I confeſs, I therefore ſometimes entertained myſelf with them. But the extent of her weakneſs was really greater than I could have imagined.

I was one morning ſurpriſed to find a Paper ſealed up on my dreſſing-table, which I found, on opening it, contained Verſes addreſſed to Strephon. Theſe were written in her hand, and directed on the outſide to me. They were addreſſed from a love-ſick Nymph to her too diffident Lover, and ſigned Laura, the poetical name which I knew

knew ſhe affected to aſſume. The hand-writing was Mrs. W . . . . .'s, but the Verſes were copied: ſo far was ſhe from being able to pen Poetry, that ſhe found much difficulty in inditing a letter.

I laughed at this circumſtance, and wrote ſomething like an Anſwer to it in ambiguous terms. I left it in her parlour one morning when ſhe was abroad, and, by what ſhe threw out afterwards, I underſtood that ſhe was greatly pleaſed with what ſhe found written there, and eſteemed it a high ſtrain of *Gallantry*.

But this *gallant* behaviour coſt me no ſmall trouble. Mrs. W . . . . . ever after this was perpetually throwing out her lures to me; ſinging love-ſongs in my preſence; aſking my opinion of her dreſs, and giving broad hints how well pleaſed ſhe would be to have me to eſcort her to Public Places.

It is eaſy to be imagined that I had no reliſh for fooling with a Woman of Fifty. Indeed, had Mrs. W..... been really young and agreeable, ſhe could have had no charms for me. I had made my choice, and my heart was fixed for ever.

But though the ſlights which I was abſolutely obliged to ſhew, were ſuch as I thought pretty apparent, Mrs. W..... was not ſo to be repulſed. She proceeded *courting* me, and her conduct at one time produced a laughable adventure. But before I relate this, it will be neceſſary to acquaint you with a previous circumſtance.

I had been told by Amiel that I ſhould meet with a friend in Briſtol. The prediction was literally fulfilled; for one night, at a tavern, I fell in by chance with a gentleman who had formerly known my aunt in America; nor had he been entirely un-

acquainted

acquainted with my Father, and alſo had ſome idea of me in my childhood. This gentleman was eſtabliſhed in trade, and wanted an aſſiſtant partner. He told me that, acccording to the laſt accounts he had received from America, my kinſwoman lay, as was ſuppoſed, in her laſt ſickneſs. He added that, from what he could learn, her daughter being dead, ſhe meant to bequeath all ſhe was poſſeſſed of to her nephew--- and ſhe had no other nephew than myſelf. In caſe of her death, he ſaid, the effects were to be left, conſigned in truſt, to a merchant of his acquaintance in thoſe parts.

This Gentleman, whoſe name was Selden, offered, in the moſt diſintereſted manner, to give me an inſight into his buſineſs. He promiſed beſides, in due time, to take me into partnerſhip; the money I was to advance being at my own option, and to be

determined

determined according to the Circumſtances in which my Aunt at her death ſhould leave me.

Mr. Selden carrying on a correſpondence with people of the firſt conſequence in America, I promiſed myſelf that I ſhould ſoon hear tidings from that quarter. In the mean time, letters were forwarded to my relenting Aunt, to inform her that I was alive, and in the city of Briſtol.

By this happy chance my preſent exigences were ſupplied, and future proſpects opened to me. Yet ſtill I heard no tidings of my Lucia. Patience was at preſent the only remedy againſt this bar to my felicity.

My new friend being of an open diſpoſition, though his age far exceeded my own, I placed ſuch a confidence in him, that I communicated many particulars of my Adventures to him. However, I concealed

the manner of my conveyance.----I never found any reaſon to repent the openneſs with which I behaved in theſe matters.

There was a gentleman of ſome fortune, and great facetiouſneſs, named M....., who was an intimate with my friend, and had been with him at my lodgings. Mrs. W..... had, according to cuſtom, in a little time given them ſome idea of her character.--In the midſt of ſocial mirth, I had completed the Portrait, as I did not conceive it could be in any reſpect detrimental to the Party.

However, after I quitted the lodging, young M..... having poſſeſſion of thus much, reſolved to have a laugh at my landlady's expence. Imitating my hand very nearly, he therefore ſent a note to her, without my knowledge. The purport of it was, That I would be at a certain place

on

on an appointed evening, where I ſhould be glad to meet her, as I had reaſons for holding off while I reſided at her houſe. The bait took: Mrs. W ..... put on her fineſt airs and her beſt cloaths, and haſtened to the ſpot with ſome impatience.

My Acquaintance knew a gentleman whoſe vanity was equal to that of my *quondam* landlady, though he was old, and even in a meaſure deformed.--To him alſo he ſent a note, as from a lady of about twenty-five, who was enamoured of him. The old man accordingly obeyed the ſummons, decking his perſon in a fanciful and ridiculous manner. Mr. M ....'s ſervant attended, in order to keep up the jeſt, which he did until the Parties met. He then took care to get out of the way, to ſee unſeen, to laugh in private, and avoid their reſentment.

When

When Mrs. W..... enquired for me by name, ſhe was told I was there, and was introduced into a parlour to wait my coming down ſtairs. In the mean time the Gentleman was informed that the Perſon he expected was arrived. He hobbled down ſtairs, eager to ſee his *Dulcinea*. She congratulated herſelf on the ſuppoſed conqueſt ſhe had at laſt made of her former Lodger. But when they met, it is hardly poſſible to deſcribe their Aſtoniſhment. "Sir"---- "Madam---I have not the pleaſure of knowing you"---"I don't recollect that ever I had the honour of ſeeing you before." Theſe were their firſt ſalutations.---If the old gentleman was diſconcerted at meeting Mrs. W..... inſtead of the expected lady, *ſhe* was ſtill more ſurpriſed and vexed at viewing this picture of Age and Infirmity. Neither of them was very willing to explain,

explain, becauſe both began to feel the aukwardneſs of their ſituation. However, *Something* muſt be ſaid. That *Something* (heightened by diſappointment) ſerved to render them more diſſatisfied with each other and with themſelves. Without inveſtigating the matter, their impatience was ſuch as, at length, urged them to fall on one another with rude language. The fray thus begun, it was doubtful where it would have ended, had not the miſtreſs of the houſe interpoſed and pacified the angry Diſputants.

I was rather diſpleaſed, at firſt, that ſuch uſe had been made of my name. However, this jeſt had a good effect, in the end, by delivering me from the amorous perſecutions of my troubleſome Miſtreſs.--And, indeed, I was heartily tired of her folly.

I re-

I remained at Briſtol for the Winter, during which time I read much of Balloons in foreign Papers, and obſerved an attempt made for a Subſcription to forward the launch of one here. But this attempt failed; and it was the general opinion of the people, that no experiment of the kind would ever be made by any Aerial Traveller, in England.

In the Spring, as I was walking one day in the fields adjacent to the City, I ſaw a Gentleman and Lady, of whom I thought I had ſome knowledge. I approached them, and was agreeably ſurpriſed to find that they were no other than young Don Sanchez and his Couſin, with whom I had become acquainted in Spain. I made myſelf known to them, and was invited to a houſe they had taken in Briſtol, where I received many civilities. They gave me

ſuch

ſuch a relation of their adventures as tallied with what Amiel had predicted, and I congratulated them on their ſafe arrival in this free country. They were united in marriage, and lived a pattern of conjugal happineſs.

All this while I beſtowed my time chiefly in attending to the buſineſs in which I was to have a ſhare. Before the month of April expired, I learned that my Aunt had paid the debt to Nature, and bequeathed me all that ſhe poſſeſſed. Mr. Selden being ſhortly to make a voyage to America on buſineſs of his own, promiſed, at the ſame time, to take care of my concerns. I was therefore perfectly eaſy, becauſe I had found him to be a man of equal Integrity and Punctuality.

Soon after my meeting with Don Sanchez, it was my chance to fall in with an extraor-

extraordinary Character, of whom I ſhall here give my reader ſome idea.---The perſon to whom I allude, is known to moſt people of any note in the Capital, as well as in other parts of England. Yet to be popular, in any ſenſe of the word, was never his deſire. But men muſt take their lot as Deſtiny has caſt it.---The man in queſtion was ſenſible of this; and while he cenſured the follies of human nature, allowed in others that Neceſſity to which he ſubmitted.

This gentleman, whoſe name was Creighton, lived on a genteel Independance; but this had not always been the caſe. He was indeed the ſon of a Merchant in Briſtol, and had been well educated; but his Parents had been viſited by misfortunes. The loſs of ſome ſhips at ſea, and other miſadventures at home, had been the ruin of his

Father

Father in buſineſs. But his genius, and readineſs in every thing he undertook, recommended him to the notice of a capital tradeſman, when other hopes failed. He remained with him, and ſerved him faithfully. Had not his Maſter died ſuddenly, he would probably have found a reward for his ſervitude. As it was, he was forced to be contented with filling the ſtation of a Clerk, which he did to ſeveral capital dealers ſucceſſively, with ſuch induſtry as acquired him reputation.

All this time, he was not idle in making his obſervations on men and manners; nor did he neglect to refreſh his memory, in regard to ſuch matters as had formerly been the objects of his Study and Attention.

In the courſe of theſe Studies, Chemiſtry had for ſome time engaged his mind. He

became

became an Adept in the knowledge of Drugs and of Metals, and for ſome time kept a Chemiſt's ſhop, with credit and advantage. But Projectors (if we except ſuch as are intereſted Impoſtors) are ſeldom fixed to the point of Advantage. This was the caſe with Creighton.

Though, as I have already ſaid, he was a gainer by his chemical ſcheme; yet he deſerted it, to take up another. He went to Birmingham, and there ſet up in the hardware buſineſs. In this alſo at firſt he had ſucceſs; but ſeveral in the ſame trade uſed the moſt unfair endeavours to injure him. The Adventurer perceived this in time; and therefore, without hazarding any thing by ſtriving againſt the ſtream, he quitted all thoughts of ſucceeding in this way. He was about to return to his ſtation of a Clerk, (by which he knew he could

could always obtain a ſubſiſtance) when an unexpected event prevented him.

A whimſical old Baronet, who had heard of his fame in Chemiſtry, and if not a proficient in the art, at leaſt conceived himſelf ſuch, made an acquaintance with him. As this honourable Gentleman had a chemical apparatus in his own houſe, he invited Creighton thither. In proceſs of time, they became ſo friendly, that while our Philoſopher imparted his knowledge to the Baronet, the latter aſſiſted him in every thing that was in his power. By his intereſt he procured him an eaſy *fine-cure*, that brought him in about 100 l. a year, leaving him at liberty to purſue his own Studies or Amuſements.

The inveſtigation of Nature employed his Patron, until the old Baronet died, and his ſon ſucceeded him. But the young man

man was not ſo fond of theſe purſuits; conſequently he wondered that his Father ſhould have intereſted himſelf for a man whoſe chief praiſe was, that he poſſeſſed Abilities of this nature.

But he had other purſuits; and notwithſtanding his great fortune, they were generally ſuch as he endeavoured to turn to his advantage. To anſwer purpoſes like theſe, he frequently deſcended to meanneſſes which his inferiors would have been aſhamed of. Yet he was occaſionally a great man among the Politicians, though exactly upon the ſame principle.

He could not but look upon Creighton as rather uſeleſs. This was not only becauſe he had a *ſine-cure*; for it would have been the ſame thing had he poſſeſſed any uſeful place, while *he* reaped no benefit by his abilities.

Much

Much about this time there was a rumour of a Change in the Miniſtry. It was not wonderful that Creighton ſhould expect on this occaſion to loſe his poſt.----The Baronet, taking the advantage of this dubious ſituation, failed not to tell his Friend, as he called him, that there was a great likelihood this circumſtance would take place. "But that (ſays he) is only if you remain inactive; otherwiſe, however the Government of the Country may ſhift, your place will be permanent and ſecure: nay, it is abſolutely indolent in young men to be ſo eaſily contented. You ſhould always be intent on riſing."

Theſe were inſtructive documents to a young man; and Creighton ſeeing ſo much depended on them, might well be induced to copy them. How far he profited by them, the Reader will beſt judge by his own

own words, which I ſhall here tranſcribe, as he delivered them to me in the courſe of relating his own Adventures.

" I heard all this, (ſaid he) and admired the conſummate prudence of the Baronet, though I did not honour his integrity. A ſtranger as I had always kept myſelf, however, to Politics I had ſcarcely a choice to make. I therefore had little more to ſay upon this ſubject, than that I would be ruled by my Patron. He received this declaration very graciouſly, as moſt people do what ſeems to coincide with their own opinions. Farther, he promiſed to watch any change that might happen, and tell me how to turn it to my advantage.

" It was not long before an opportunity offered, the Miniſter of the preſent day being turned out; after ſome pauſe in government, a new Miniſtry was appointed. The

The Baronet told me this was the time to ſerve him, and to puſh my own fortunes. The former of theſe was certainly the great object of his attention, though he might have no objection to any good that might accrue to me in contributing to that end.

" As my honourable friend thought I was compliant, he was laviſh in his profeſſions to ſerve me. And having his own intereſt in view, he was ſo far ſincere upon the occaſion.

" In conſequence of what he had ſaid, the Baronet gave me to underſtand what he conceived or choſe to hold forth as the principles of the new Miniſtry. Indeed they ſeemed fair, and I ſcarcely entertained a doubt but that I could ſerve myſelf and him and likewiſe act according to Conſcience. For this was ſaid to be a Patriot Miniſtry.

" The

" The Baronet had reaſon to ſuppoſe that I poſſeſſed ſome talents which, properly exerted, might figure in the political as well as the chemical line. He now invited me to exert them, and for encouragement introduced me to his friend the Hon. Charles Simper, a great friend of the Miniſter.

" The Hon. Mr. Simper received me with much Politeneſs. After being cloſeted with this gentleman for about two hours, he declared he wondered where ſuch abilities could have been hidden. Having aſked what proviſion was made for me, he ſaid I deſerved ten times as much.---Nay, farther, he pledged himſelf that 1000l. *per annum* at leaſt ſhould be at my ſervice, if I would but follow his directions. How could I think of diſputing, when it was to ſerve a Patriot Miniſtry?

" I

" I profeſſed to accord to all that Mr. Simper ſaid. He made me a ſmall preſent, and gave me a multiplicity of great promiſes.--But nothing material was to be done until I could be known to the Miniſter.

" Previous to this, it was recommended to me to write in favour of thoſe at the Helm in general. I did ſo; plaiſtering over the new and moſt unmercifully beſpattering the old miniſtry.

" This gained me great credit with the Baronet and his friend Mr. Simper. The latter, in particular, when I ſaw him next, paid me many compliments on the goodneſs of my Head and Heart, which he ſaid were ſo fully diſplayed in my late production. He propoſed to introduce me immediately to the Miniſter.

" The Earl of S . . . . . is a man of ſome Abilities and no deſpicable portion of

Learning. Coming into the Adminiſtration when this unhappy country was rent by Factions, he was eſteemed at firſt a good political director, under one that was generally praiſed as a moſt able pilot. But it was the death of his Principal that brought the Earl to the Helm; or, as ſome ſay, he intruded himſelf there. However that was, there I found him; but whether he will ever be found in ſuch a ſituation again, is rather problematical.

"This Nobleman poſſeſſed a good addreſs, and, as if he had been the counterpart of his friend Mr. Simper, generally appeared to have a Smile on his countenance. He could diſcourſe for hours on the ſubject of Patriotiſm and mean nothing. And, in point of argument, he was like a certain character in Milton, who "could make the *worſe* appear the *better* reaſon." But

of

of theſe particulars in his character I was ignorant.

" I found his Lordſhip peruſing with much complacence a number of papers which lay before him in his Study. The Hon. Mr. Simper introduced me, and I was graciouſly received. This Nobleman, according to his uſual method, put many queſtions to me. He ſeemed pleaſed with my anſwers, and we parted with mutual ſatisfaction.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

The Hiſtory of the Man of the World concluded. A Viſit to the Metropolis reſolved on. A Bubble burſt. The Aſcenſion of Lunardi and other Aerial Travellers. An unexpected Meeting and its Conſequences. CONCLUSION.

"THUS (continued Creighton) I was put, as I thought into the road of immediate preferment. Mr. Simper aſſured me that the Premier would carry all before him, and I did not pretend to controvert the truth of the aſſertion.

"But an unexpected change ſoon happening, the Earl of S..... went out; yet Mr. Simper remained juſt in the ſame place as he had formerly occupied. I had never been promoted during his Lordſhip's Adminiſtra-

Adminiſtration, yet I was once more threatened with diſmiſſion from the little poſt I occupied.

" I complained of this to my firſt political friend. He ſmiled as uſual. When I expreſſed my apprehenſion that I ſhould be turned out of my place---That cannot be (ſaid he) if you will but do as I do; ſupport the Miniſtry *for the time being*.---

" Whether it were on account of a certain Contempt that my looks and ſilence expreſſed for this man I know not; but in a few days I was really diſmiſſed. Thus ended my Political Career.

" By ſuch adventures, however, I firſt began to entertain a proper notion of mankind. So far, perhaps, they were ſerviceable to me. Many ſimilar ones accrued afterwards. Again I embarked in Trade; again I was unfairly hindered from ſucceſs by

inſidious rivals. I tried the ſatisfaction ariſing from Friendſhip. I found a falſe Friend; (I ſay nothing of a numerous acquaintance whom I obliged) and I found myſelf both injured and ſcorned on his account. I had a Miſtreſs, and ſhe proved unfaithful. I paid honourable addreſſes to a young Woman of apparent merit, and ſhe ſuffered her relations to perſuade her to prefer a coxcomb to me, her faithful lover.

" In Fine, the Reſult of what I have ſeen, has determined me with reaſon to conclude that whatever men or women may pretend, Intereſt is their object, and Self the god they adore."

Though I could not *entirely* ſubſcribe to the creed of my acquaintance, yet I thought that much knowledge might be gathered from his relation. At the ſame time I believed

believed that he would have been ſtill a greater Miſanthrope, if the unexpected death of an inteſtate miſerly Kinſman had not placed him in independant circumſtances.---

Hearing that an aerial Adventurer was to aſcend in the Atmoſphere at London, it was reaſonable to think, after what I have already told the Reader, that ſuch a circumſtance engaged my attention. I therefore acquainted Mr. Selden with my Intention of making a viſit to the Metropolis.

As ſoon as convenience allowed, I ſet off for London, and, as I muſt acknowledge, full of expectations. I underſtood that a Balloon was to riſe into the Atmoſphere from Chelſea; and I attended accordingly. It was the Chevalier Moret. But we were diſappointed. He eſcaped with difficulty from the fury of the populace.

I had

I had ſcarcely digeſted the ſpleen which this diſappointment occaſioned, before I obſerved that new Notices were given of the intended aſcenſion of another aerial traveller, who was not at all diſmayed by the miſadventure of the former. To his Notice I attended, and the rather, as I underſtood the Adventurer was an Italian. This circumſtance ſeemed to accord with Amiel's prophecy.

This was Mr. Lunardi, ſince ſo famous in London, and in general ſo well received by the Engliſh Nation, as introducing a new Science into our Country.

On the 15th of September, 1784, this Gentleman aſcended; in every reſpect fulfilling his promiſe to the public; though at that time the Emolument he received was by no means ſuch as might have been expected. About 150,000 people were aſſembled

bled on this occaſion, and they did not go away diſappointed. The proper preparations being made, the Aeroſtatic Globe aſcended ſlowly and majeſtically, and remained in ſight for a conſiderable time, ſo as clearly to be diſcerned by the naked eye. Having waved one of his Flags ſeveral times, he threw it out, in order not to be too much incumbered; and one of his Oars breaking, he did the ſame with that alſo.

After a pleaſant voyage, this firſt aerial Traveller alighted at ſome diſtance from Ware in Hertfordſhire.

The particulars of Mr. Lunardi's firſt Aſcenſion will ever be moſt ſenſibly impreſſed on my mind, from one circumſtance; namely, that I plainly ſaw my Lucia among the ſpectators. But juſt at the moment that I made up to her, ſhe was withdrawn, nor could I diſcover any perſon

who knew any thing about her. This was a material diſappointment; but I had been taught the leſſon of bearing diſappointments with patience.

While this matter employed my mind, Mr. Selden required my preſence at Briſtol, and I could not but obey the ſummons.--- He was about to ſet out on his voyage to America, which was likewiſe intended for my advantage. I ſhould have been convicted of Folly, as well as Ingratitude, if I had demurred on the occaſion.

My preſence, however, was no farther neceſſary than to ſettle matters, on my being regularly admitted into partnerſhip. That buſineſs being adjuſted, and having ſeen Mr. Selden ſafe on board, the Clerks were properly inſtructed, and I returned to London. I came time enough to view the Aſcenſion of Meſſrs. Sheldon and Blanchard

from

from the Military Academy at Chelſea. This Aſcenſion was remarkable for Mr. Sheldon's being the firſt Briton that ever aſcended into the Atmoſphere.

The Exhibition, as I remember, took place on Saturday, the 16th of October. At ten o'clock, they began to fill, and at ten minutes paſt twelve, the Balloon was ready for Aſcenſion. After a temporary Deſcent, which was owing to the ſurrounding houſes and other ſimilar cauſes, it roſe again ſublime in æther.---The Aerial Travellers being French and Engliſh, waved the banners of both Nations. When they reached Sunbury, in Middleſex, having loſt a portion of the *gas*, the Balloon was lowered, and Mr. Sheldon deſcended, near the ſeat of Lord Vere, in that county. But his Companion purſuing his Voyage, alighted at Rumſey, in Hampſhire, at four o'clock

in

in the afternoon of the ſame day. This was Mr. Blanchard's firſt experiment in England.

The Aſcent of Mr. Sadler with his Aeroſtatic Machine was next remarkable. He was the firſt Engliſhman who ever conſtructed an Air Balloon, and alone ventured to try its efficacy.

The next Aeroſtatic Experiment was that of Mr. Blanchard's riſing in Park-ſtreet, Oxford Road; which he performed to the entire ſatisfaction of the public, traverſing about twelve miles in one hour.--- I was preſent at this Exhibition, and you will own, Reader, that my labour was not loſt, if you ever loved like him who penned the pages now before you.

Whilſt I was walking up and down and ſurveying the company, among whom were the Prince of Wales, the Ducheſs of Devonſhire,

vonſhire, and ſome of the firſt Nobility of the Land, I once more eſpied my Lucia, and haſtened to her immediately. Somewhat abruptly I claſped her in my arms, and ſhe fainted. However, ſhe was ſoon brought to her ſenſes again. She knew, ſhe acknowledged, and embraced me, at the ſame time that the tears ſtreamed from her eyes.

The Balloon had no ſooner aſcended, than I ſolicited Lucia to retire with me to ſome place where ſhe might inform me of her preſent ſituation. She readily complied, and conducted me to a very handſome houſe, which, when we entered, I found to be elegantly furniſhed. "I am ſolicited to become the Miſtreſs of this Manſion, (ſaid Lucia) and thence ariſe my Sorrows."

Having

Having informed me of thoſe circumſtances which Amiel had before revealed, (there being nobody in the houſe to interrupt us) ſhe thus proceeded :---" When I arrived in France, I was treated in a very generous and polite manner ; and what crowned my ſatisfaction, was my being recommended to an Engliſh Widow Lady, who at that time was about to return to her native Country, and who was willing to take me with her. She appeared to be a perſon of underſtanding, and a good diſpoſition, and I was happy to accompany her.

" It was not long before we found a veſſel at Havre de Grace ready to ſail for England. The Lady embraced the offer, and we embarked accordingly.

" While we were yet on our voyage, which was protracted by contrary winds, ſhe gave me to underſtand that ſhe had a

ſon

ſon, who would inherit all ſhe had at her death, and beſides was undoubted heir to a rich uncle in the country; and of this young Gentleman ſhe drew the moſt flattering picture.

" This Lady (who is the owner of the houſe you are now in) was very curious concerning my affairs. I communicated as much of them as I thought proper to her; but your name, my Charles, was never mentioned in the recital, yet your Image was preſent in my mind; though I ſaw not what hope there was of our ever meeting again.

" It was on this account, and my orphan ſituation, that I was frequently very melancholy. Mrs. Chilton obſerved this, and generally endeavoured to divert me, by calling my attention off to ſomething lively and entertaining.

" When

"When we reached London, I was ſurpriſed, on ſeeing young Chilton, to find that he was far from anſwering his fond Mother's deſcription. He was aukward, and unpolite. He appeared to have little learning, conſidering his ſituation in life, and was ſelf-willed and imperious.

"Unhappily for me, this Youth, ſuch as he was, took notice of me in a manner which I as little wiſhed as expected. He was perpetually *courting* me, as he termed it. His Addreſſes at firſt, however, were by no means on the ſcore of marriage. He ſeemed to ſuppoſe I ſhould deem myſelf honoured, if he took me for his Miſtreſs. But when I treated his offers with the contempt they deſerved, he changed his mode of courtſhip, and propoſed making me his Wife.

"In

" In the mean time, Mrs. Chilton thought proper to queſtion me about the matter; and ſhe received ſuch an Anſwer as was dictated by truth and ſincerity. The old Lady appeared to be much pleaſed at the ingenuous manner of my behaviour. Yet I thought, by her ſubſequent conduct, that ſhe had her doubts. She took her ſon to taſk: She forbade him ever to think of me, either as a Wife or a Miſtreſs; but he gave little heed to her injunctions. Indeed, ſhe had in her eye what ſhe thought a very agreeable match, which ſhe meant to bring about for him, by means of the conſideration of his ample fortune and expectations. But he went on as before, being a perpetual plague both to me and his Parent.

" The Infelicity which ſuch a life brought every day with it, occaſioned me more than once to expreſs a deſire of leaving

ing Mrs. Chilton. The Lady always ſeemed diſpleaſed when I made theſe remonſtrances.

" About a month ſince, her ſon behaved in ſuch a manner as a due ſenſe of my Character occaſioned me to reſent. I complained loudly of this inſult. Mrs. Chilton was ſo much diſpleaſed with his conduct that ſhe forbade him her preſence, and conſequently he came not into mine.---- This petulant young man either feigned, or really fretted himſelf into a fit of ſickneſs, at a country lodging, where he reſided while thus under his Mother's diſpleaſure. She is now with him there. My untoward Lover has ſo far worked upon the feelings of his parent, by repreſenting his exceſſive Love for me, that ſhe has lately wrote to me upon the ſubject. In her letter ſhe gives full conſent that young

Chilton

Chilton ſhould marry me. After expatiating on the fortune which he invites me to ſhare with him, ſhe obſerves, that as ſhe has conſented, ſhe does not perceive that I can or ought to have any objection to his honourable Addreſſes. She concludes with her hope that I will not, in return for her friendſhip, make both her and her ſon unhappy.

"My Anſwer, you will conceive, could be nothing elſe but a refuſal, which I tempered, however, as mildly as I could. A ſhort, and rather angry letter, three days ſince, I received in reply. Your arrival has, in ſome meaſure, diſpelled the conſequent gloom. But ſay, my dear Charles, are you unaltered in your opinions; and into what ſituation of life has Fortune now thrown you?"---

I replied,

I replied, by relating the principal part of what had happened to me, omitting the *wonderful.* I made Lucia acquainted with the nature of my fortune and expectations.

This Explanation having taken place, it was agreed upon that I ſhould write to Mrs. Chilton. I did ſo, thanking her for her generous behaviour to one ſo dear to me, and informing the Lady of my deſign to relieve her from any further trouble on her account. I was ſo explicit in this letter as to declare, that I was Lucia's Lover, and meant ſhortly to marry her.

Mrs. Chilton, when ſhe came to Town, permitted her Companion to depart, and ſpoke no more except the words neceſſary to announce ſuch a permiſſion.

Two days afterwards a ſervant, in a livery which I did not remember, brought me a note, which, on opening, appeared to be a challenge.

challenge. I attended at the time and place appointed; but the challenger did not come, and there the buſineſs ended.

There now remained no obſtacle to our marriage. For by this time Mr. Selden had returned from America, having ſettled my affairs to advantage; and my money was lodged in the funds.

As to the affairs of our joint Buſineſs they went on agreeably, and we had taken a warehouſe in London, in order to render it more extenſive. Thus Fortune ſeemed diſpoſed to ſmile on me, in order to make amends for her former frowns, of which I had had ſufficient experience.

I had the chance about this time to meet again with my former Acquaintance, whom I have diſtinguiſhed by the name of *The Man of the World*, in London.

He

He was in nothing altered from what he had been; nor was it likely that he ever ſhould alter. He congratulated me on my preſent good fortune, at the ſame time that, with a ſigh, he ſaid he wiſhed no worſe might follow. For neither in men, women, nor the gifts of Fortune or bleſſings of life, did he put any confidence.---It is, indeed, good to be prepared againſt any change that may happen in human affairs. But I have generally eſteemed ſuch as are always predicting evil to be no other than Self-Tormentors. And, regardleſs of ſuch predictions, we were happily united.

THUS far the AUTHOR.---We ſhall here give the Reader a little ſketch, which may ſerve as a Supplement to his Account of Aeroſtation.

Mr.

Mr. BLANCHARD having formed the ſcheme of croſſing the Channel in his Balloon, reſolved to aſſociate with him his former Companion, Dr. Jefferies. Accordingly they aſcended in company from Dover-Caſtle, in January 1785. At Mid-Channel, they lowered apace; the aerial Travellers therefore threw overboard all that could be ſpared, even to their upper garments. This ſacrifice being made, they re-aſcended again, and arrived, in about two hours and a half, at ſome miles diſtance from Calais. They were brought into that town in triumph; and Mr. Blanchard received from this journey both honour and emolument. After his return, he aſcended twice from Barbican, once in company with Miſs Simonet, when he made an excurſion as far as Lee-Bridge, and afterwards alone, when he deſcended at Hanningfield. Again the ſame aerial

Voyager

Voyager aſcended from Lambeth with Miſs Simonet the younger, and deſcended on the Deptford-Road. Mr. Sadler made a ſecond aerial Voyage from Moulſey-Hurſt to the Nore. And laſtly, Mr. Lunardi, on the 21ſt of May, made his ſecond Experiment, but the Machine not being properly filled, travelled only from the Artillery Ground to the Adam and Eve in Tottenham Court Road. His Balloon, and other aerial Vehicles, are expected daily to make farther Experiments.---Such is the ſtate of Aeroſtation in this Country, which bids fair, in time, to contribute greatly to the Improvement of the Sciences throughout all Europe.

FINIS.